

HELLO, i'm THEA!

I'm Geronimo Stilton's sister.

As I'm sure you know from my brother's bestselling novels, I'm a special correspondent for The Rodent's Gazette, Mouse Island's most famouse newspaper. Unlike my 'fraidy mouse brother, I absolutely adore traveling, having adventures, and meeting rodents

The adventure I want to tell you about begins at Mouseford Academy, the school I went to when I was a young mouseling. I had such a great experience there as a student that I came back to teach a journalism class.

from all around the world!

When I returned as a grown mouse, I met five really special students: Colette, Nicky, Pamela, Paulina, and Violet. You could hardly imagine five more different mouselings, but they became great friends right away. And they liked me so much that they decided to name their group after me: the Thea Sisters! I was so touched by that, I decided to write about their adventures. So turn the page to read a fabumouse adventure about the

THEA SISTERS!



colette

She has a passion for clothing and style, especially anything pink. When she grows up, she wants to be a fashion editor.



violet

She's the bookworm of the group, and she loves learning. She enjoys classical music and dreams of becoming a famouse violinist.



paulina

Cheerful and kind, she loves traveling and meeting rodents from all over the world. She has a magic touch when it comes to technology.

THE THE THEAS TERS



Nicky

She comes from Australia and is very enthusiastic about sports and nature. She loves being outside and is always ready to get up and go!



pamela

She is a great mechanic: Give her a screwdriver and she'll fix anything! She loves pizza, which she eats every day, and she loves to cook.



Do you want to help the Thea Sisters in this new adventure? It's not hard — just follow the clues!

When you see this magnifying glass, pay attention: It means there's an important clue on the page. Each time one appears, we'll review the clues so we don't miss anything.

ARE YOU READY?
A NEW MYSTERY AWAITS!

Geronimo Stilton

Thea Stilton AND THE MADAGASCAR MADNESS



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SUBJECT: ADVENTURE!

The **END** of the school term is always very busy for students, especially the hard-working pupils of Mouseford Academy. But the Thea Sisters — best friends **Colette**, **Nicky**, **PAM**, **PAULINA**, and **Violet** — had figured out the perfect **Recipe** for spicing up their days of endless studying.

Like any good recipe, this one had a secret ingredient: the MUST DO list! Every time a mouselet took a study break, she'd work on her Must Do list — a list of all the fun things she'd get to do once vacation began.

Which is why, when the THEA SISTERS had finally turned in their last assignments,



they rushed back to their rooms. It was time to turn the Must Do list into the **DONE** list!

"We're finally on **Vacation**. Thank goodmouse!" Nicky cried, scurrying into her and Paulina's room. "What are you going to do first?"

"Hmm, let's see . . ." Paulina reflected, taking her LIST out of a drawer. "Well, I could finally read that book about marine animals . . . or I could create some new graphics for Colette's blog . . . or I could go to the nursery to buy new plants for my patch in the school garden."

"Those all sound like **Great ideas** to me," Nicky agreed, pulling out her own list. "Let's see . . . should I go take a **RUN** around campus, go surfing, or pick out a new sleeping bag for my next camping trip?"

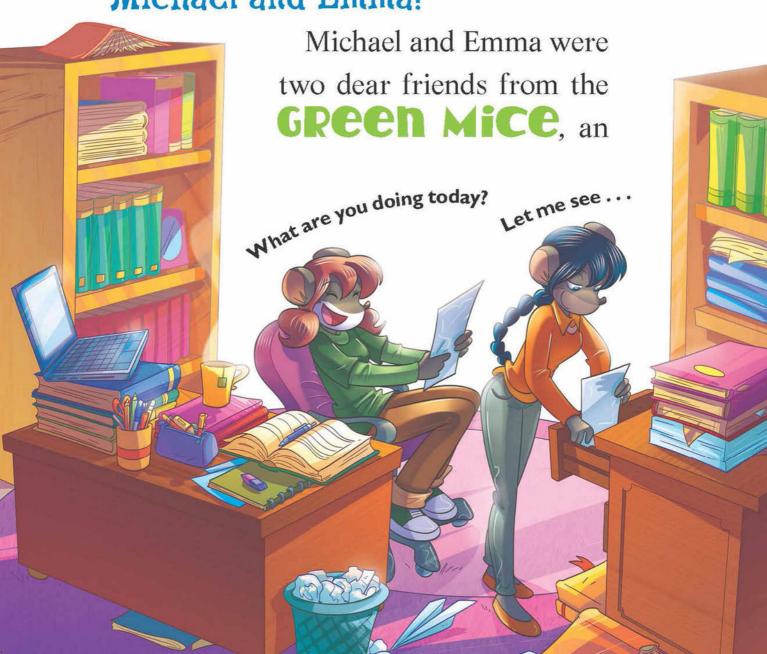


Just then, two beeps echoed through the room.

Paulina pulled her phone out of her pocket, and Nicky scurried over to her laptop.

"I just got an email," Nicky said.

"Me too," said Paulina. "It's from Michael and Emma!"





environmental organization Nicky and Paulina both belonged to. The email's subject line was simply "ADVENTURE!"

Curious, the mouselets curled up on Nicky's bed and began reading the long message, which grew more and more interesting with each line.





"Dear Nicky and Paulina," the email began. "What do you think about packing up your backpacks and heading to Madagascap?"

Michael and Emma went on to explain that another environmental organization had arranged a WILDERNESS SURVIVAL COMPETITION called ADVENTURE CAMP. It was a program held in the RAIN FOREST of Madagascar, where teams of young environmentalists would be challenged to demonstrate their survival skills — without any outside HELP.

Michael and Emma wanted to participate in the competition — in fact, they were determined to win first prize. They wanted to DONATE the prize money to the Green Mice!

There was, however, one obstacle . . .



"We need a team of experienced GREEN MICE members to come with us. So we immediately thought of you. You are our most adventurous friends, and from everything we've heard about your buddies Colette, Pam, and Violet, they sound like they'd be perfect to join us as well."

For a moment, Nicky and Paulina **LOOKED** at each other. It was so quiet, you could hear a cheese slice drop.

"You know, I think I've figured out what I'm going to do today . . ." Nicky said at last. She was **grinning**.

Paulina nodded. "I've decided, too . . ."

The mouselets pulled out their Must Do lists and wrote two words across the top:





AN URGENT MEETING

Until the day before, Nicky and Paulina would have known just where to find their friends: in the library, studying. But now that exams were finally over, where would their MUST DO LISTS have taken them?

"I'm texting the group to meet up at Daisy Bakery," Paulina said, tapping on her phone. "If they're interested in **ADVENTURE CAMP**, we'll need to get ready right away!" A half hour later . . .

"I'm here, I'm here, I'm here!" trilled Colette, scurrying across the courtyard of Whale Island's most whisker-licking-good bakery. She had a brand-new fur-do.

"Why didn't we think of that?" Nicky cried.
"Of course the first thing on Coco's Must Do



list was getting her FUR done at Yvette's!"

A moment later, Violet arrived, her trusty **yoga** mat rolled up under one paw. Pamela trailed after her. She was dressed in a **MECHANIC'S** coveralls, a smile on her snout.

"So, what's up?" asked Pam.

"We've told you about our **friends** Michael and Emma, right?" Nicky began.

Violet nodded. "They were in the PICTURES from your most recent Green Mice camping trip."

"We just got an interesting email from them," Paulina said. "And it involves all of us . . ."

As Colette, Pam, and Violet sipped on Swiss cheese smoothies, Nicky and Paulina filled them in. They told their friends all about the ADVENTURE CAMP



competition in Madagascar and how important it was for the Green Mice to win.

"So we'd have to leave immediately?" asked Colette thoughtfully.

"And spend a week surrounded by nature?" added Pamela.

"And WILD ANIMALS?" asked Violet.

Nicky nodded. "Yes. We know it's very last-minute, and we don't expect —"





"It would be so fabumouse to wake up to the sound of chirping birds," Pam interrupted.

"Just think of all the unique animals and plants we'll SEE!" said Violet.

"We need to book our **PLANE TICKETS** right away," said Colette, clapping her paws.

"I'm so delighted you like the idea!" cried Paulina. "Although it might mess with your new fur-style, Coco . . ."

"I can stand a week of messy fur if it means
I get to go someplace absolutely **amazing**!"
Colette laughed. "It'll be an honor."

"An honor? Really?" came a squeak from behind Colette.

"Um . . . yes, Ruby," Pamela replied. Mouseford's most **spoiled** student, Ruby Flashyfur, had joined their group. "We're



taking off for a place that's —"

"Fabumouse and unique!" interrupted the heiress of the famouse Flashyfur fortune. "I heard when I came in. My vacation plans fell through. Perhaps I could JOIN you."

"Um, it might not be for you . . ." Violet tried to say.

"It's a MAGNIFICENT, exclusive place!" Ruby interrupted, turning redder than a cheese rind. "Of

course it's for me!"

"Well . . . you'll need a sleeping bag," Pamela said. "To sleep in the forest."

"A sleeping bag?"





Ruby asked in **SURPRISE**. "The **FOREST**? You mean, you're not going to a hotel with a spa?" Her snout grew pale.

"No." Violet smiled. "It's a wilderness survival competition deep in the forests of Madagascar!"

"S-s-survival...?" Ruby stuttered. "Excuse me, but ... there's something urgent I have to go do!"

"I don't think we'll see her again anytime soon!" Colette laughed as Ruby scampered away faster than the mouse who ran up the clock.

"Too bad," JOKED Pamela. "I would have loved to see the look on her snout when she discovered there aren't any hot tubs or beauty salons in the middle of the forest!"

MADAGASCAR!

Continent:

Africa

Capital:

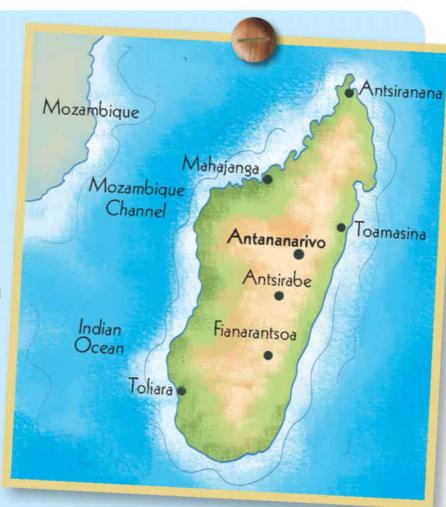
Antananarivo

Languages:

Malagasy, French

Currency:

Malagasy ariary



Madagascar is the fourth-largest island in the world. It's located along the eastern coast of Africa, separated from the African continent by the Mozambique Channel. It is also called the "Great Red Island" for the color of its soil, which is rich in iron oxide. Madagascar is known for its unspoiled nature, distinct ecosystems, and unique wildlife. Around 90 percent of all the plant and animal species found in Madagascar are endemic — they exist nowhere else on Earth!



Two days later, the Thea Sisters' plane slowly descended. "In ten minutes, we'll touch down in Madagascar," the pilot announced.

"Can you believe it?" Paulina said, her snout pressed against the window. "We're really here! And we're going to participate in an amazing challenge!"

"We've already completed one big challenge today." Pamela giggled. "Getting Colette on the plane with just a single SUITCASE!"

Colette smiled. "As I always say, you don't need to have lots of clothes, just the **right** clothes."

"I have never heard you say that," Nicky said, thinking of the dozens of suitcases her



friend usually packed.

"You've never heard me say it before, but as of today, it's my MOTTO," Colette replied with a Wink.

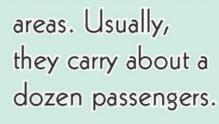
The mouselets landed at the big airport in Antananarivo, Madagascar's capital. They waited a few minutes for another plane that would take them **NORTH** to **ADVENTURE CAMP**.



After their second plane landed, the **mouseLets** collected their luggage and greeted Michael and Emma with a round of hugs.

Outside the airport, they found a TAXI-BROUSSE, which would take them to the camp. As they traveled FARTHER AND FARTHER away from the city, the five mice found themselves surrounded by PIGTURESQUE countryside.

A taxi-brousse (which means "bush taxi" in French) is a common form of transportation in Madagascar. They are buses that connect inhabited









"Look at all the baobab trees!" cried Violet, admiring the view.

"Some kinds of **baobab** grow only in Madagascar," said Paulina, reading from her MousePhone.

"I do want to hear more about **nature**," said Pamela, sniffing, "but ever since we left the airport I've been **smelling** something yummy . . . and I don't think it's the baobabs!"

"Oh, right!" said Emma. "While we were

Mofo sakay are spicy fritters made from a flour-and-water dough with pepper, chili peppers, curry, onions, tomatoes, and



waiting for you, we bought a SNACK."
"Okay, now my

Sambos are fritters similar to a samosa. They are made of filo dough filled with meat, fish, vegetables,

or potatoes.



mouth is really **WATERING!**" Pam said. "Why didn't you say so earlier?"

Michael took a sack out of his backpack. "Here, try some. It's mofo sakay and sambos, and they're still **HO+!**"

The rodents enjoyed their snack and the view until the *taxi-brousse* stopped.

"We've arrived. From here we'll go by paw," Emma announced.

"Before we start hiking, I have to say a few words," Michael said. "I am proud to name Colette, Pam, and Violet honorary members of the **GREEN MICE**." He approached them and placed a little Pin on each of their jackets. "Without you, we wouldn't be able to participate in what I'm sure is going to be . . .

a fantastic adventure!"



"Okay, mice, we need to head in that "DIFFETTION!" said Nicky, checking the route for camp headquarters.

The **group** made their way through the



trees and undergrowth. Soon they'd reached the spot on the MAP marked with a tent symbol.

There, a rodent with big, dark eyes greeted the Thea Sisters and their friends warmly. "Welcome! I am Jonah, the forest ranger responsible for this part of the preserve. I'll be your guide on this adventure."







A group of young rodents stood AROUND Jonah. They were members of the second team participating in Adventure Camp.

Pam stepped forward and introduced herself to one of the **rodents**. "I'm Pam!" Then she noticed that the ratlet couldn't stop scratching his paws. "ARE YOU OKAY?"

"Yes — sorry, I don't mean to be rude. It's nice to meet you," said the **young** rat, shaking her paw. "I'm Vinnie . . . and it looks like I'm the favorite dish of the insection in this place!"

The ratlet's arms and legs were covered in red bumps.

"Hmm . . . maybe you should change," Pam





suggested. "In a FOREST like this, it's better to cover up as much as you can, so you don't turn into a meal for mosquitoes."

Jonah was squeaking to the other campers. "While we wait for the third and final team, let me tell you a little about the **adventure** we're embarking upon. This forest and the beach nearby will soon be

declared a nature preserve . . . "

He explained that the preserve contained a wide Variety of animal and plant SPECIES, many of which exist only in Madagascar.

All the rodents participating in

NATURE PRESERVE

A nature preserve is a protected natural area that offers ideal conditions for many different animal and plant species to grow and live safely.





Adventure Camp would learn how to **take care** of the plants and animals there.

"During the next week, you'll be completely immersed in nature," Jonah continued, "and you'll learn to use the resources around you with great care and **RESPECT**. You'll learn to get by **ON YOUR OWN**, without outside help — and without technology."

At those last three **words**, Colette, Pamela, Nicky, and Violet turned to Paulina. She was as still as a statue. You see, Paulina was a huge fan of **technology**. Asking her to survive for days without her MousePhone was like asking a mouse to go without **cheese!**

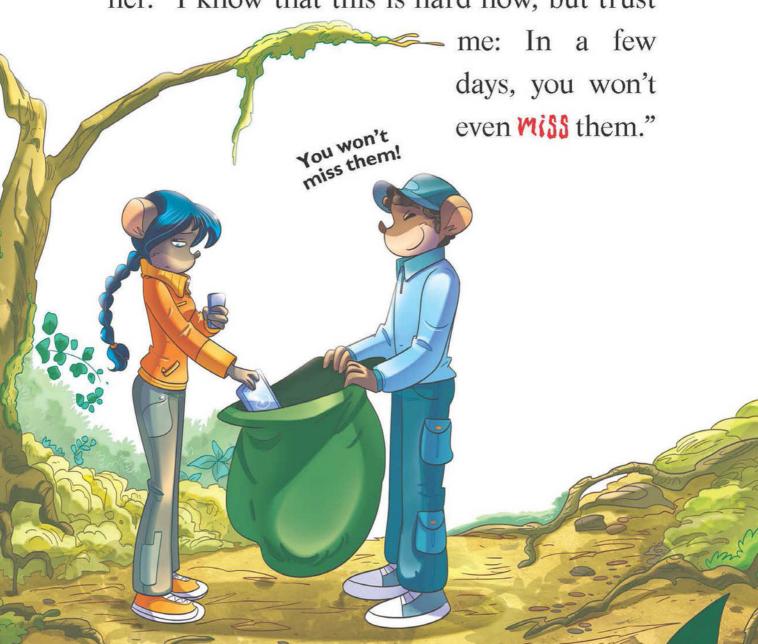
Paulina swallowed hard. "That . . . that means that . . ."

"Yes, that means that you must paw over every electronic device you have with



you," Jonah confirmed. He took out a bag and passed it from camper to camper. "You can take only **Claimes**, books, and other non-electronic gear along in your backpacks."

Whiskers **quivering** with worry, Paulina gave up her trusty devices. Jonah **5MILED** at her. "I know that this is hard now, but trust





"Snout up, Paulina!" cried Colette, squeezing her friend's paw. "I'll bet Jonah's right. Before you know it, you'll forget all about your gadgets."

"I know," her friend squeaked sheepishly.

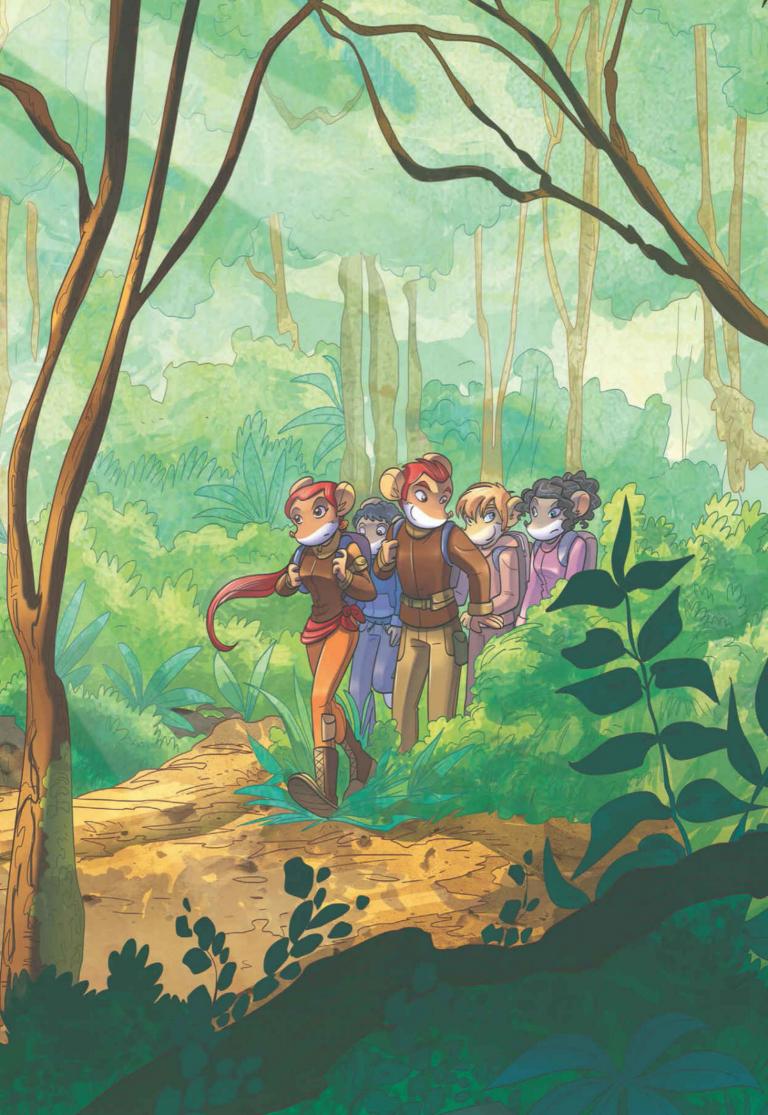
"But for now, every time I see something interesting around us, I put my paw in my

POCKET to get my phone so I can learn more about it!"

As the THEA SISTERS' team and Vinnie's team explored the clearing, they heard **PAWSTEPS** nearby. Soon a new group of rodents emerged from the forest.

Colette went to **greet** the new arrivals. "H, I'm Colette!" she said, extending a paw







to the mouselet and ratlet who led the **group**.

The mouselet looked Colette over from toe to tail. "I'm Lisa, and this is my twin brother, Ed."

"I guess you're the third team," said Nicky, joining them. "Jonah, the forest ranger, just explained what we'd be doing this week."

"Isn't this place the rat's pajamas?" Violet said. "Jonah told us we'll get to take care of the wildlife and learn to survive ON OUR.

"But **OVIOUS** we'll need to count on one another, too," Pam said. "We're on different teams, but that doesn't mean that we can't help one another out."

"Oh... I **don't** think our team will need your help," Ed replied snootily. "There's really nothing you could teach us about



being **explorers**!" He nodded and then headed to the other side of the clearing.

The THEA SISTERS watched him and his team go.

Paulina frowned. "I have a feeling Ed and Lisa DON'T PLAY WELL WITH OTHERS!"





Now that the final team had arrived, Jonah declared that the **ADVENTURE CAMP** competition had begun!

"From this moment on, you

must demonstrate

your ability to survive outdoors and your love of nature.
Only one team will win the title

'Wilderness Survivors,"

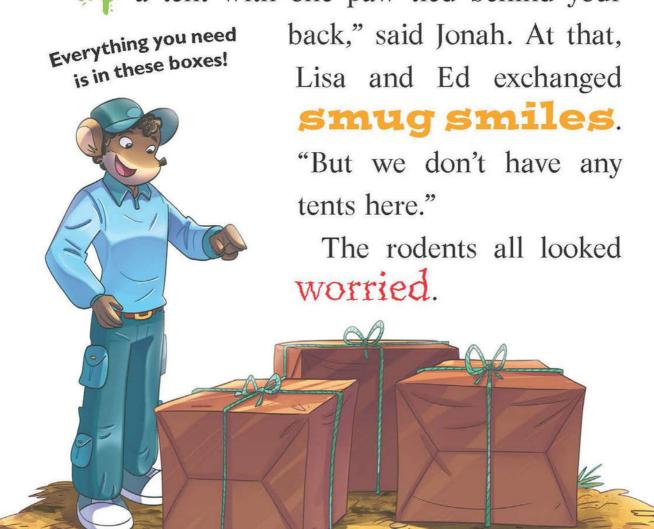
he explained. "Teams will

be eliminated one by one, based on how they perform on the challenges. And now the first challenge: build a shelter to rest in **tonight!**"



The young rodents LOOKED around. They had been told not to bring TENTS, and they had expected to find some there. But when they examined their SURROUNDINGS, they realized there was no trace of a tent anywhere!

"I know some of you campers can set up a tent with one paw tied behind your





"No tents?!" CRED Vinnie.

Jonah smiled. "This is Adventure Camp — you need to show me you know how to **SURV***VE! But don't panic. Everything you'll need is inside these boxes!"

The teams rushed to collect their and began going through their contents.

"Waterproof fabric and rope . . ." said Emma, taking out the equipment. "How can we use these?"

The Thea Sisters and their friends thought for a moment.

"I remember reading something useful in the GREEN MICE manual," said Paulina at last. "We can find two STRONG trees and tie the rope from one to the other. Then we can drape the sheet of fabric OVER the rope so it reaches the ground, RAIN FOREST

A rain forest is a large forest of tall trees, usually found near the equator. They have a very high annual rainfall and are home to many plant and animal species.

like a tent."

"Good idea,"

Michael said. "But don't forget, we're

in a **rain forest**. So we need to check the ground before we go to sleep to make sure there aren't any ANN ALS around."

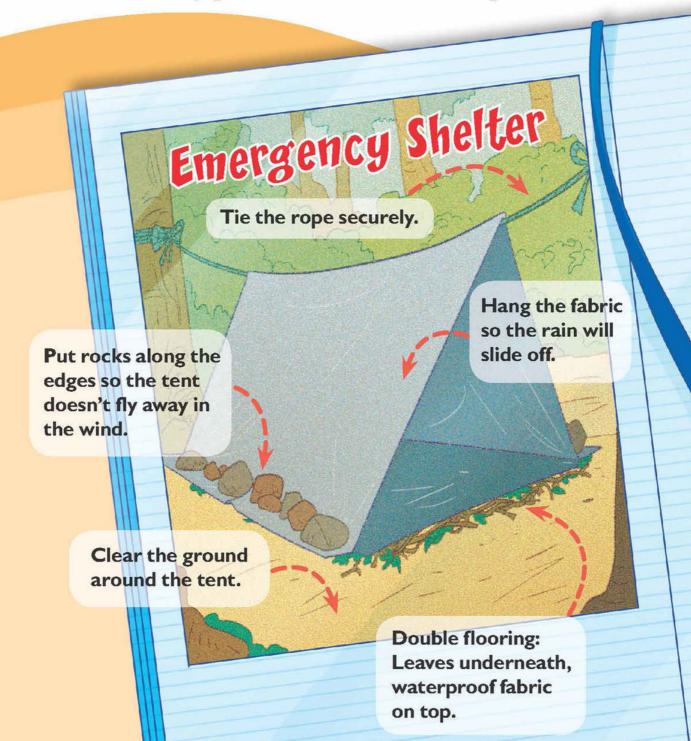
Pamela nodded. "Of course. And we'll also need to protect the **AREA** where we'll be sleeping from rain."

"Between the equipment that Jonah gave us and what nature has to offer, we have everything we **VEED**," concluded Violet. "Let's get to work! C'mon, move those paws!"

So the Thea Sisters' team began to construct their TENT. First they chose two trees. Then they found large branches they could use to clear the **ground** that would become the floor of their shelter.



The rodents covered the area with a thick layer of **leaves** so they wouldn't have to sleep right on top of the hard, **let** ground. Then they placed a sheet of waterproof fabric



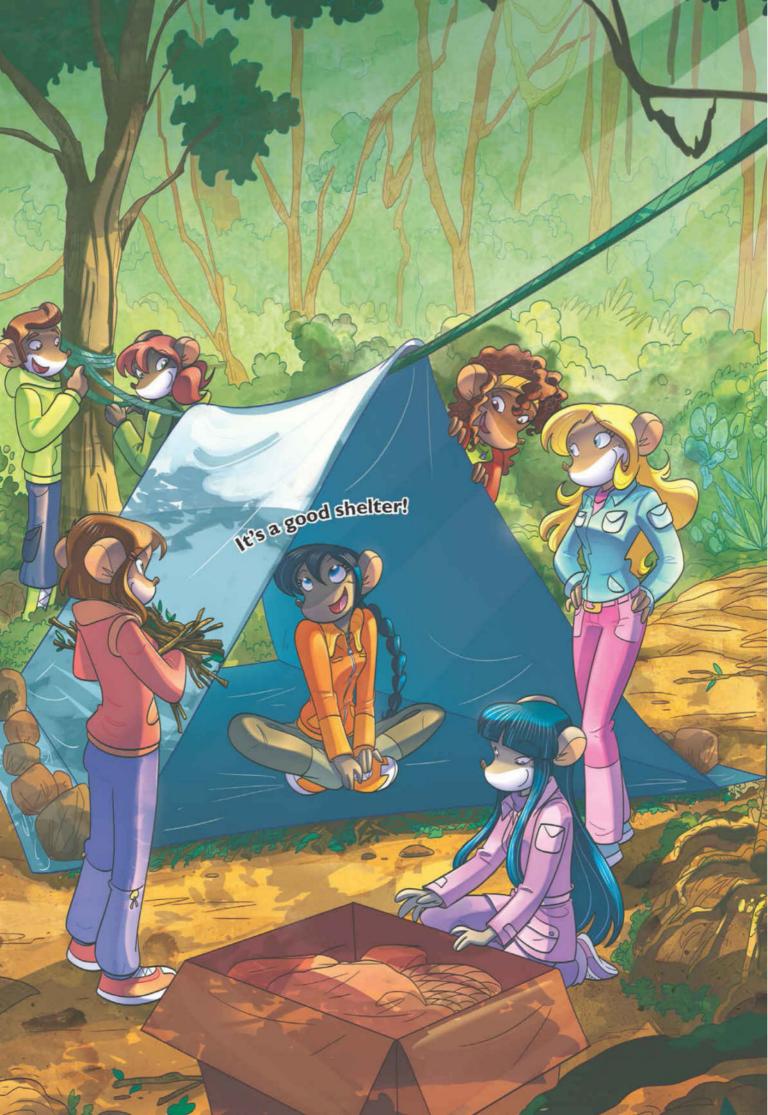


on top. Next they tied a **rope** between the two trees and tossed another large piece of fabric over it. Finally they secured the fabric to the ground with heavy **STONES**.

"What do you think? Looks like a good shelter to me!" Paulina said with satisfaction.

Colette studied it for a minute, and then smiled. "It's not a *good* shelter . . .







A DAY AT THE BEACH!

day of hard work, the rodents at Adventure Camp were **sleepier** than Santa Mouse the day after Christmas. They gathered wood for a **FRE**, chatted for a few minutes, and then retired to their shelters. Most of them fell into a deep **sleep**.

The next morning, Colette was the first one up and about. "Good morning, Vinnie! Did you sleep well?" she called out. But the camper's tired look told her that his answer would be \mathbb{N}^{2} .

Vinnie **shook** his snout, exhausted. "I didn't sleep a wink . . ."

"Me, neither," confessed Lottie, one of his



ibusteep a wink...

teammates. "Every time I was about

or another strange sound, and the next thing I knew, I was wide awake and terrified!"

"Oh, you poor little scaredymice," Lisa said mockingly. "Were you really afraid?"

Paulina glared at Lisa. "If you don't have much experience camping in the wilderness, it's normal to stay awak; the first night," she told Lottie.

"Yeah, at night the forest noises can





be **frightening**," Nicky agreed. "But remember, the animals are was so afraid!

MORE AFRAID of you than you are of them."

Just then, Jonah arrived.

"Hey, everyone! I hope that
you're ready for a new day,

because I've got something **SPECIAL** planned. We're going to explore the **COOST!**" he said. "But first, let's straighten up camp headquarters."

The Thea Sisters' team and Lisa and Ed's team got busy cleaning the campsite and packing up their food and water. Vinnie and Lottie's team was assigned the task of putting out the fire they'd LIT that morning.

Once everyone was finished, the group was ready to get going.

The camp was located near the edge of

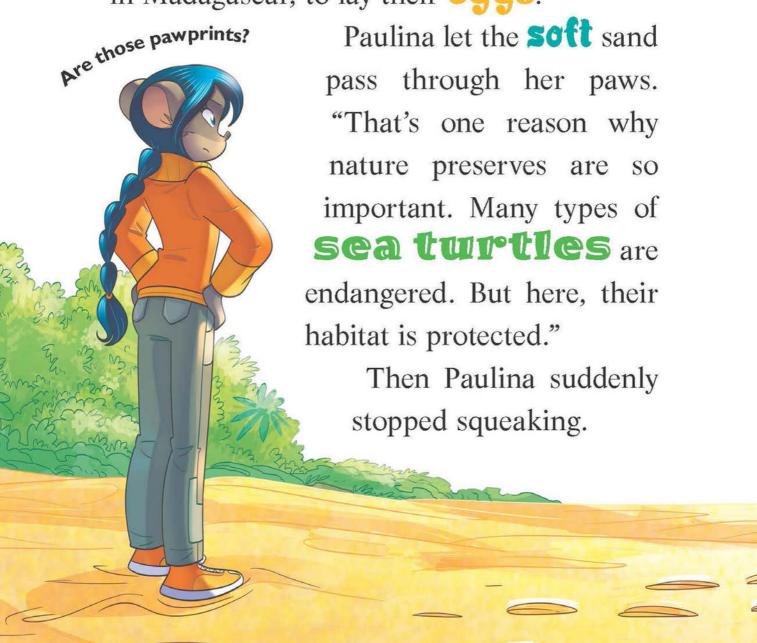






the forest, and it was only a short hike through the brush to a marvemouse beach.

"Can you believe it?" Nicky said, gazing at the horizon. "Sea turtles who live in the Indian Ocean come right here, to this beach in Madagascar, to lay their Eggs."





"What's up?" asked Colette, concerned.

"Do those look like **pawprints**?" she asked, squinting into the distance. "It looks like they're leading into the forest. But we haven't taken that path yet."

Pam shaded her eyes from the Sun. "You're right, those look like pawprints. But they're probably from someone in our group who's already GONE THAT WAY."

A few minutes later, the group headed back toward camp headquarters. Everyone was squeaking cheerfully about the amazing sights they'd seen.

But the **good spirits** from the morning's hike disappeared as they drew closer to the campsite. The air was filled with an odor that **COULDN'T BE GOOD** . . .





"Hey, wait a minute," said Emma, **Stopping** suddenly. "Do you smell smoke?"

Paulina sniffed the air. "Yes!" she confirmed, alarmed. "And it's coming from the direction of our camp!"

Faster than a mousetrap spring, the rodents raced through the **forest**. Once they reached the campsite, they were snout-to-snout with every camper's worst nightmare: a FRE!

"We've got to put it out before it spreads!" shouted Jonah.

In a panic, Vinnie took off his jacket and tried to stifle the blaze. But he only made things worse. His coat was made of flammable material, and it BURST INTO FLAMES, too!



"Let's run back to the beach and get some water, quick!" Ed ordered his team. They grabbed POTS and containers and started running.

"We need water!

"We can't wait for them to get back," Jonah said as Ed's team **DISALLARD** into the forest.

"Let's gather soil to throw on the flames."

"I have an idea!" cried Paulina. "Vi, grab your poncho."

The rodents put the plan into action. When they'd collected a **pile** of dirt on the poncho, they carried it over and dumped the dirt onto

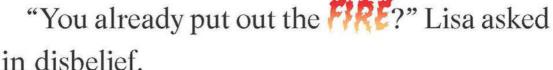
the flames. Instantly, the fire was put out!

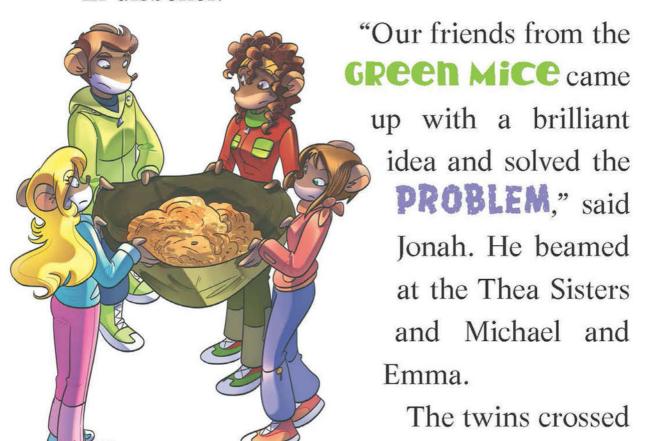
Just then, Ed, Lisa, and their teammates

Out of the

forest, lugging

containers full of water.







their paws, annoyed.

"Thanks to their quick thinking, we stopped a fire that could have had **GRAVE** consequences," Jonah went on.

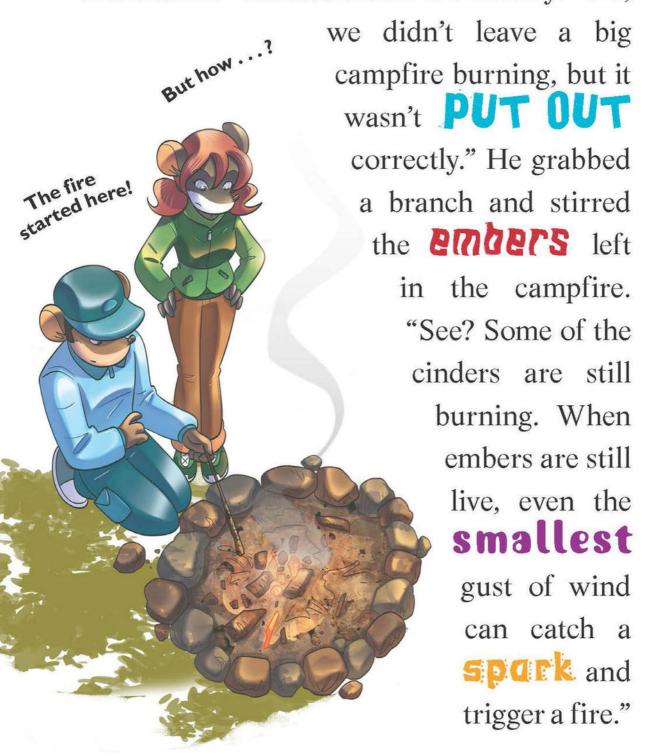
"Thanks, Jonah. But I don't understand how the fire started in the first place," said Nicky. "We didn't leave the CAMPFIRE burning."

Be very careful with fire in the woods! If a fire spreads outside of a designated fire circle, get far away and immediately alert an adult!

Fire grows because of the presence of oxygen. So a fire can be put out by suffocating it — by cutting off its oxygen. Covering a fire with soil or sand will put it out quickly.



Jonah crouched next to the fire pit and LOOKED THROUGH it carefully. "No,





"NICE WORK!"

Ed told Vinnie sarcastically. "You almost let our campground burn dow —"

"Ed, please, it's not your job to Scold other campers," Jonah interrupted him. Then he turned to Vinnie and his team. "But it's true: Your TEAM was in charge of putting out the fire, and you didn't do it correctly. You put the forest, its wildlife, and all of us in danger. I must eliminate you from ADVENTURE CAMP."

The Thea Sisters and their friends said good-bye to Vinnie, Lottie, and their teammates, who sady gathered their things and left.

"I feel bad for them," Colette told her friends. "They weren't very experienced, but they were excited about being here."



You're next!

"You're sorry for them?" Lisa laughed **SCORNFULLY**. "Don't waste your time on

that pack of losers. You should

be worrying about your own team, because you're going to be eliminated next!"





The next day, the Green Mice were making their way through the **forest** when Colette cleared her throat. "Rodents, I don't want you to think that I'm a big meany-mouse or anything, but I'm relieved our team is ON its OWN today."

Nicky, Pam, Paulina, Violet, Michael, and Emma smiled. Then Pam said what everyone was thinking. "Don't worry, Coco: We feel **EXACTLY** the same!"

"I'm sorry to say it," admitted Michael, "but so far the biggest challenge at Adventure Camp is putting up with those snooty rodents!"

After Vinnie and Lottie's team had been



eliminated the day before, the Thea Sisters and their friends had tried to include Ed and Lisa's **TEAM** in some activities. They'd hoped to get to know the other team **better** by sharing stories and singing songs together.

But Ed and Lisa made it clear they weren't interested. When the Green Mice had invited them to the campfire, they'd retreated to their tent with their TEAMMATES.





So that morning, when Jonah had announced that the two <code>Oroups</code> would explore separately, the Green Mice had let out sighs of relief. Each team would look for animals and <code>Nore</code> all the species they found in their logbooks.

"I know that it's a competition and that the GRAND PRIZE is a big deal," said Violet. "But this doesn't have to be such a rat race. Ed and Lisa only seem to care about winning, and that means they miss out on a lot of GOOD THINGS!"

Nicky was leading the group, and she





stopped suddenly. "Hey, did we already PASS this spot?"

"I don't think so," replied Emma, looking around. "Why?"

"There are some broken BRANCHES," said Nicky, inspecting the plant next to her. "Like someone with a Heavy load passed this way . . ."

"We definitely didn't come this way," Paulina said, frowning.

Her friends drew closer to examine the MYSTERIOUS tracks. Then there was a





sound from above.

The branches shook, and then a small with a red coat leaped down. It was headed right for the rodents!

"It's a lemur!" Michael whispered.

Colette stepped back, worried. "Okay . . . but why does it seem so angry at us?"



The **lemur** is a graceful animal with a long tail and great big eyes.

Lemurs are native exclusively to Madagascar, and they spend most of their time in trees.

As if in response, a **mournful** cry came from the bushes behind the rodents.

Moving slowly so as not to frighten the lemur, Paulina inched toward the bush. There was a baby lemur with one paw caught in a **SNGP** of liana vine!







"That must be her baby," whispered Violet. "She's **THREATENING** us because she's afraid we'll hurt it."

Finally free, the little lemur jumped up like a flash and scampered to its mother. Mama and baby snuggled, happy to be together again. Then they scrambled up a

tree trunk.

Before Usalliand into the foliage, the two lemurs stopped a moment and turned to look at the THEA SISTERS and their friends, as if to thank, them.

STRANGE PAWSTEPS in the forest

While the Thea Sisters were helping the lemurs, Lisa and Ed's team was RAGING through the forest. They were hoping to spot lots of different ANALS—
they were determined to show

Jonah that they deserved to win this part of the challenge.

Lisa looked up at the top of a tree through a pair of **Bingcutars**. Ed checked the **notepad** with their list of sightings. "Check this out — we've already spotted tons of animals. Geckos, birds,









butterflies ... "

"I bet the **GREEN MICE** are stomping around like a pack of pachyderms. They'll scare away all the animals before they even see them!" Lisa giggled.

"Yesterday I chatted a bit with Colette," said Tim, one of the twins' teammates, "and she seems nice to me . . ."

Ed silenced Tim with a glare. "We're here to WIN the contest, not make friends!"

"Ed's right," Lisa barked.

"We're here to **beat** the competition, not **budgue**with them!"

The rodents continued through the **lush** forest until they heard



et's scare them!

the sound of pawsteps in the distance.

"Did you hear that?" asked Ed. "It must be the Green Mice! You were right, Lisa. Their **Pawsteps** are heavier than our greatuncle Bigbelly's after a seven-course cheese banquet!"

"I've got an idea. Let's Play a trick on them!" Lisa suggested, grinning spitefully. "Let's hide, and when they walk by, we'll jump out and scare them."

chortling.

The twins crept behind a thick bush and crouched down, trying

"Great idea," Ed said,

to stifle their giggles. When the pawsteps grew closer . . .



"B000000/" the twins shouted, jumping out of their hiding spot.

But the smug expressions on their snouts quickly turned into looks of **SURPRISE**. It wasn't their rivals in front of them — it was two grown rodents they'd never seen before.

"Er . . . e-excuse us," Ed stuttered.

"Hey, ratto, that wasn't funny," the first unknown rodent snarled.

"We didn't mean to scare you," Lisa tried to explain. "We thought this area was **CLOSED** to the public, so . . ."

"Well, you were wrong," the second rodent spit. "Den't mess around in this forest — and Den't stick your snouts where they don't belong."

With that, the two rodents **DISAPPEAKED** as quickly as they'd appeared.

"Who do you think they are?" asked Ed.

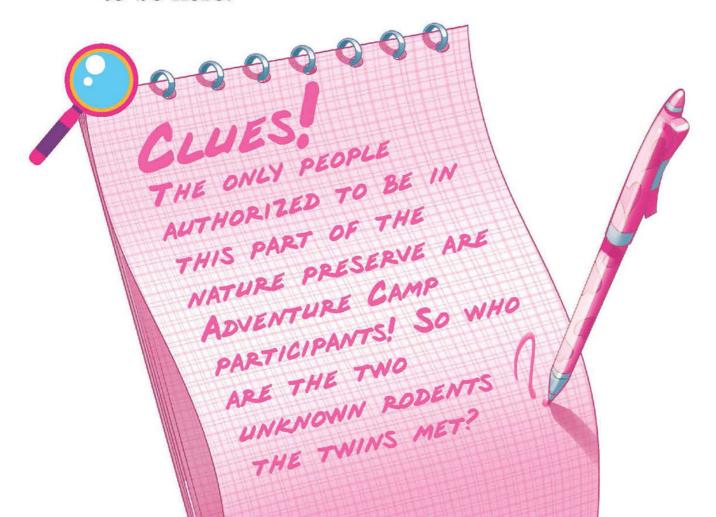




He was still shaken from the unexpected run-in. "Should we tell Jonah about them?"

Lisa reflected for a moment, and then shook her snout. "No, because then we'll have to tell him how we met them, and I don't want him to know we were playing a prank on the other team."

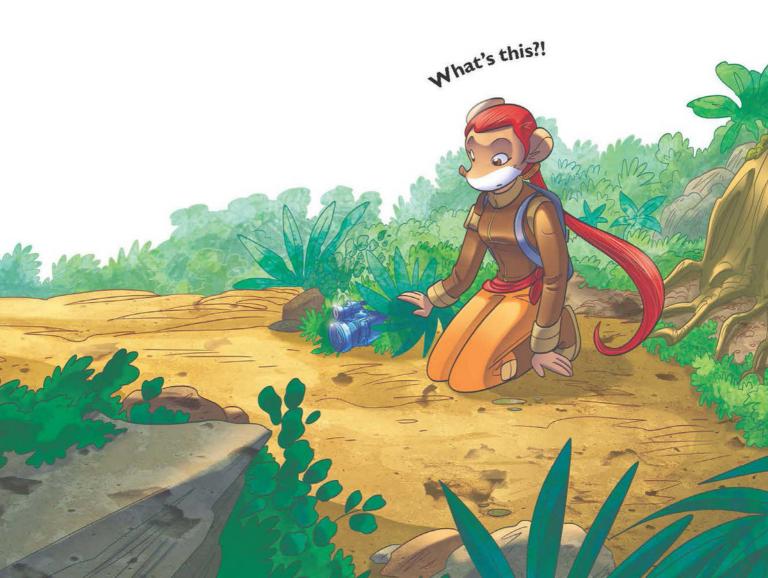
"You're right," said Ed. "They're probably just **forest rangers**. I'm sure they're supposed to be here."





"Yeah, you're probably right. Let's keep going," said Lisa.

After a few pawsteps, though, she stopped. "What's this?" she murmured. There was a **gadget peeking** out of a bush close to where they'd first spotted the two unfamiliar rodents.





Lisa moved the leaves aside and picked up the object that had drawn her attention. "Check it out. It's a Video comero!"

"Shhhhhh!" Ed said. "Don't let the rest of the team hear you, or they'll want us to paw it over to Jonah!"

"You're right," whispered Lisa. "But do you know what this means? We can film ourselves after all!"

You see, the twins had been very disappointed they'd had to turn in all their devices. They were dying to record their awesome accomplishments during this adventure. After all, what was the point of having an experience like this if you couldn't



take PICTURES to show your friends?

But now they could have their cheese and eat it, too!

"Cheese niblets! Let's keep it on the down-low, okay?" Ed said **EAGERLY**. "Maybe we'll even be able to get some good footage to give **Journalists** when they interview us after we **WIN** the contest."

Ed and Lisa didn't waste a moment. They tiptoed far from the rest of their team, and then turned on the video camera and began FILMING.

But a little while later, when they hit the PLAY button, something strange happened. Half the images









were completely dark, and the other half were in very **pright colors!**

"This footage looks terrible! What went

wrong?" cried Lisa, looking

at the display.

"Maybe the rain forest humidity ruined it," Ed grumbled.

"BUMMER! This was going to be the ultimate way to prove

our coolness to the world," Lisa moaned. She stuffed the **Video comero** into her backpack. "Let's take it anyway. Maybe once we're back at camp we can **Odjust** it and save what we filmed."

While Ed and Lisa fiddled with their strange camera, the THEA SISTERS' team was enjoying their hike back to camp.



"What a day! I can't believe how many animals we spotted," said Paulina, satisfied. "I can't wait to tell Jonah about everything we saw. Maybe we can even suggest some trails for visitors in the future."

"Hey, look at those gorgeous flowers!" cried Pamela, heading for a tree.

"I think they're orchids," said Colette, following her.

But Colette noticed **SOMETHING MORE** than just flowers. There was a small spider slowly lowering itself into Pamela's thick





"Um . . . Pam . . ." said Colette very carefully, knowing how much her friend hated **SPIDERS**. "Those are really beautiful orchids, but maybe . . . maybe you should over a little . . ."

Pam's tail shot straight up like a rocket, and her Check out whiskers quivered. those flowers! "What is it?! Um... Pam... CHEESE AND

GRACKERS,

is it a spider?!"

"Yes, just a tiny little one," Nicky confirmed. "Really tiny, I promise!"

> "Oooooh, I know it's not!"



Pamela said, her squeak shaking. "You're saying it's tiny so I won't lose my cheese, but I'll bet it's an enormouse, gigantic HARY SPIDER..."

Colette reached her paw out to her friend. "Don't worry, it's totally microscopic! But it would be better if you moved anyway, okay?"

Pamela gulped, grabbed her friend's www, and stretched out a leg to move away. But she accidentally stepped on a DRY BRANCH, and it cracked with a loud SNAP!

"AAAAHHHHHH!" Pam shouted in terror. Before her friends could stop her, she scampered off into the forest.

Her teammates looked at one another nervously. Then they **Scurried** after her.

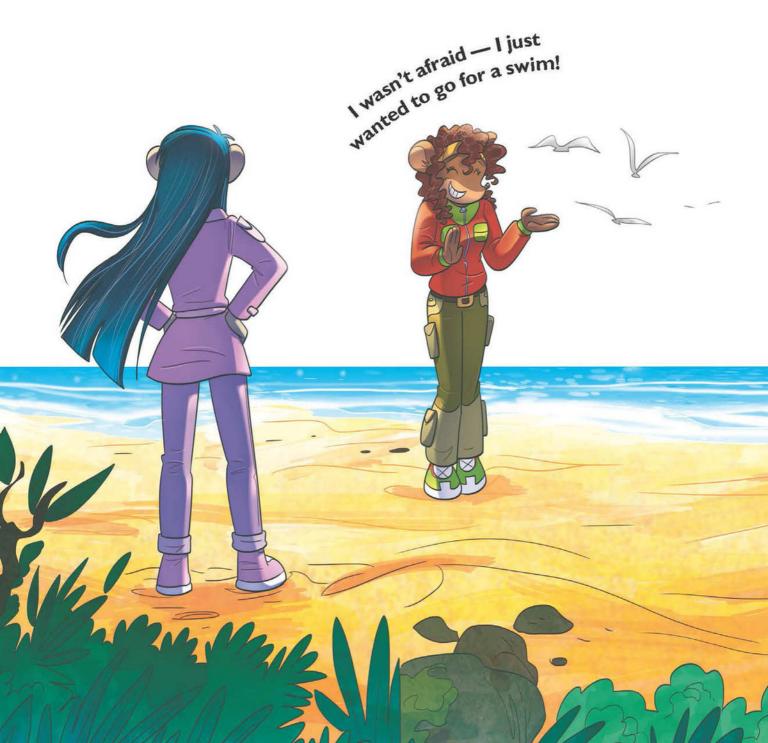
At the end of their dash through the forest, the **group** of mice found themselves on a



beautiful beach.

"Everything okay?" asked Nicky, joining her friend.

"Oh, yes," Pamela replied, catching her





breath. She **blushed** to the roots of her fur. "I wasn't afraid at all . . . I just . . . wanted to bring you here . . . to go for a **swim!**" she **joked**.





"You know something?" Pamela said as she climbed out of the WATER, wringing out her wet fur. "I'm happy that spider crossed our path today, because without it we would have missed this detour to the beach."

Her friends agreed. Swimming in these crystal-clear waters was amazing!

"This place is truly marvemouse." Violet sighed. "Whether you've got your paws on land or floating in the water, you're always surrounded by wildlife that can't be found anywhere else in the world!"

Tired but happy from their busy day, the rodents headed back to camp headquarters.

"Hey, we're the FIRST ones back," said





Michael. Neither Jonah nor Lisa and Ed's team had returned yet.

"Cool," cried Emma. "I've got an idea — let's light a FTRE and make dinner for everyone."

But when they headed to the tent to put

down their things, an unpleasant surprise greeted them.

"What happened here?" asked Pamela, running her paw along a **GASH** down one side of their shelter.

"What could have made a tear like that?" asked Colette, **DUZZ** [Cd].

Michael slowly shook his snout. "Not 'what' —

'WHQ.' That tear

is way too CLEAN to have been made by a branch or rock."

"But we're the only ones in the nature

preserve. There's no one else around," Emma pointed out.

Just then, a bolt of lightning crossed the sky. Paulina raised her eyes and started to count: "1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9 . . ."

If you measure the time that passes between lightning and thunder, it's possible to calculate how far off a storm is. The shorter the time between the flash and the thunder, the closer the storm!

B000000M!_____

Thunder rumbled throughout the forest.

"Let's figure out who's responsible later. Right now we have to think about how to repair the damage," said Nicky. "We still have a few minutes, but we'll have to hurry.



The 多安亚亚 isn't far off!"

The rodents examined the torn fabric, but the longer they **CAZED** at it, the harder it looked to fix!

"I wish I were a plant right now," Colette said with a sigh. "When it rains, they don't get soaked — the water just \$\lide{\color{1}}\color{1}\colo

Paulina jumped up. "Way to go, Coco! That's the **Solution!** Leaves — we need leaves!"

The rodents started looking for fallen fronds and large leaves to place over the damaged wall of the tent.

"I think it's going to WORK," said Nicky.

"This way, the rain will hit the **SHELTER**and then slide right off the leaves!"

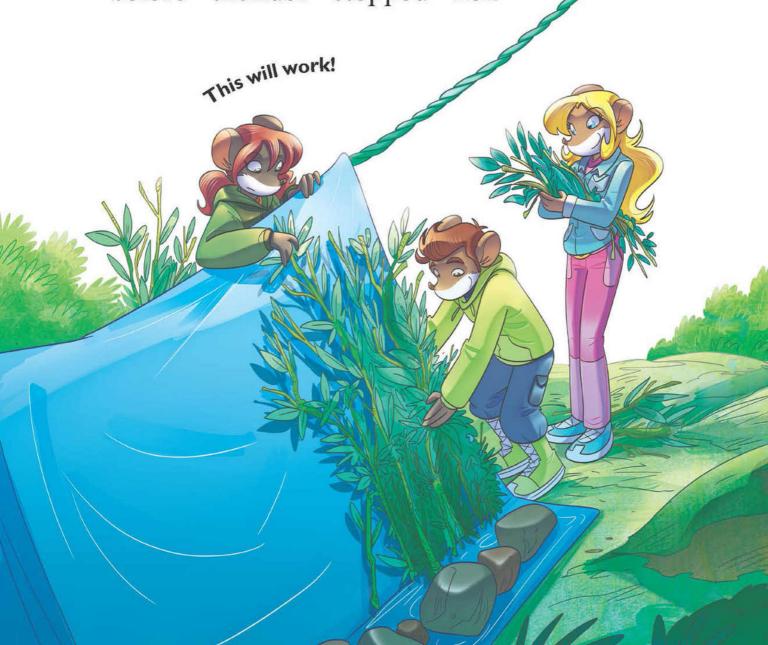
"Hey, what's going on?" asked Jonah. He'd just scurried into the campsite dong with



Lisa and Ed's team.

Michael quickly filled him in, and Jonah nodded. "GOOD WORK. You did the right thing."

The next time lightning LiTUP the sky, Paulina didn't have time to count before thunder stopped her.







As the first raindrops hit the ground, the rodents SCURRIED to take cover in their shelters. Little did they know that two pairs of eyes were spying on them from the bushes . . .





Paulina had a **restless** night. She tossed and turned like a kitten with a new ball of yarn.

The day that had just ended had been long and full of **adventure**: the hike through the wilderness, the meeting with the **mama** lemur and her sweet baby, the swim in the crystal-clear ocean water, and finally the **SURPRISE** at camp, which had forced the Thea Sisters and their friends to think fast in order to find shelter from the **STOPPIN**.

As the rain drummed against the makeshift tent roof and her teammates slept peacefully, Paulina took another look at the big gash.

Michael's words from **Carlier** that **afternoon** echoed in her ears: "Not



'what' — 'who.' That tear is way too clean to have been made by a branch or rock."

Was it possible that another rodent had deliberately **sabotaged** their tent? And if **50, who?** Paulina wondered if she and the other Green Mice should be suspicious of Ed

and Lisa's team . . .

In the dark, Paulina shook her snout. No. She refused to believe it. Lisa and Ed were the most COMPETITIVE rodents she'd ever met, but there was no way they'd sabotage other competitors just to win.



So if it wasn't them, then who was it?



Paulina was startled from her reverie by muffled sounds from outside. Was someone lurking around the CAMP? She was about to wake up her friends, but then she thought about how Vinnie and Lottie had worried about the forest's nighttime sounds. "It's just living nature..." Paulina had told them. Comforted by her own good advice, she was at last able to fall asleep.

The next morning, when she opened her eyes, sunlight and birdsong greeted her. Paulina grinned. What a great alarm clock!

But that peaceful moment didn't last long . . .

"THIEF! THIEFEEEF!" shouted a female squeak.

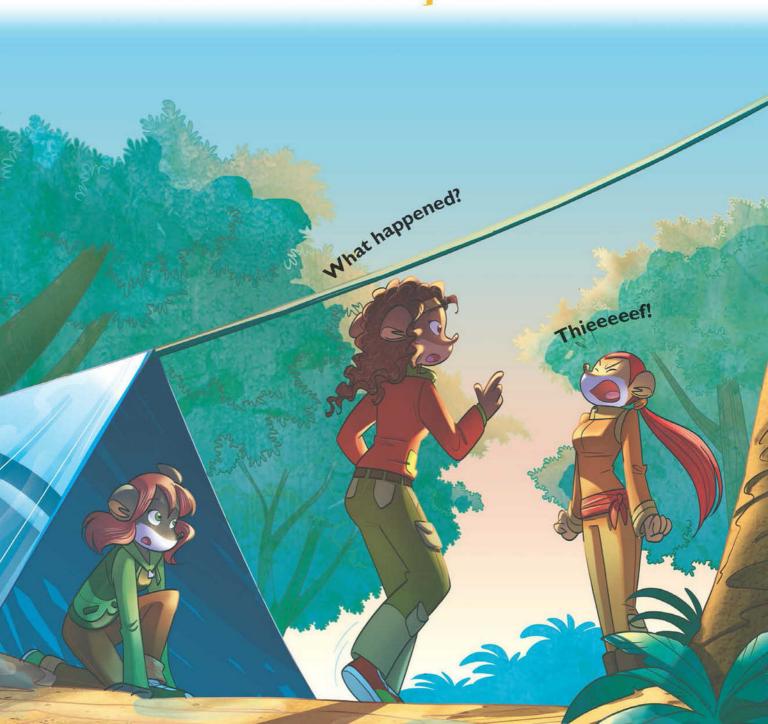
The other campers rushed out of their shelters. They found Lisa in the **Middle** of the clearing. She was tearing at her fur.



"Hey, what's going on?" Pamela asked.

"My backpack has disappeared!" Ed explained **ANGRILY**, joining his sister. He was pulling his whiskers in exasperation.

"But ... that's not possible!" Violet





said. "It must be here somewhere. We'll find it!"

The rodents began to search the area surrounding the camp, but with no luck: The backpack had **DATEARD** like cheddar into a cheese grater.

Paulina thought back to the night before. She was about to **tell** her friends about the noises she'd heard. As she opened her mouth to squeak, Ed interrupted her thoughts.

"I knew you were jadlous of our superior survival skills," the ratlet sputtered, **CLARING** at the Green Mice. "But I didn't think you'd actually resort to stealing our stuff!"

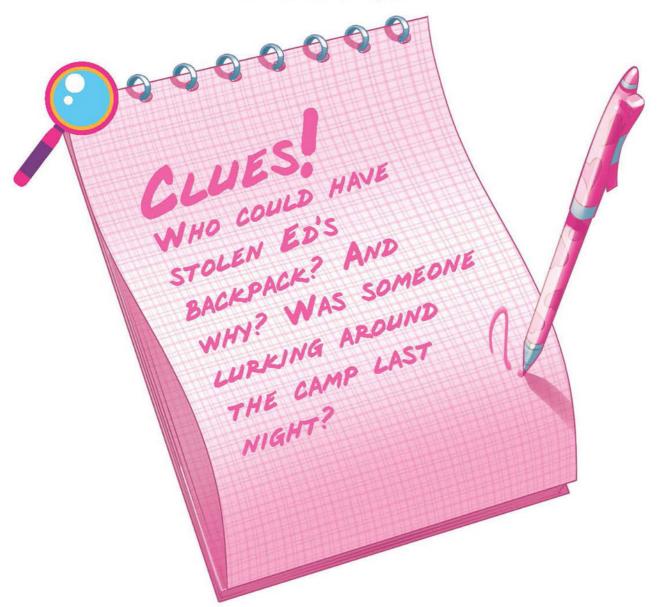
Nicky blinked in **confusion**. "Wh-what? What do you mean? Are you accusing us?"



"You knew you had no chance of winning fairly, so you tried to **sabotage** us!" Ed said.

"No way! How could you even think that —" Colette began.

But the twins didn't let her finish. They turned tail and MARCHED off.





A SHORT TRUCE

The day had gotten off to a dismal start. After **fighting** like cats and rats, the two teams dreaded spending time together. But unfortunately, the day's schedule called for a **group** activity: a trip downriver in a **canoe**.

When it was time to leave camp, the Adventure Camp contestants were quiet as mice. They walked side by side, their EYES on the ground.

But as the rodents paddled through an incredible forest of mangroves, they found peace in their surroundings. They put aside their differences and began chattering like chipmunks.

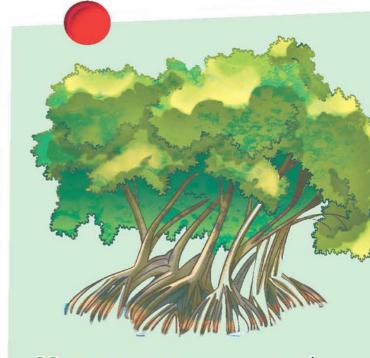
Even Ed and Lisa seemed content to enjoy



the countryside and the company they were keeping. For the First time since the beginning of this adventure, the twins forgot all about the competition.

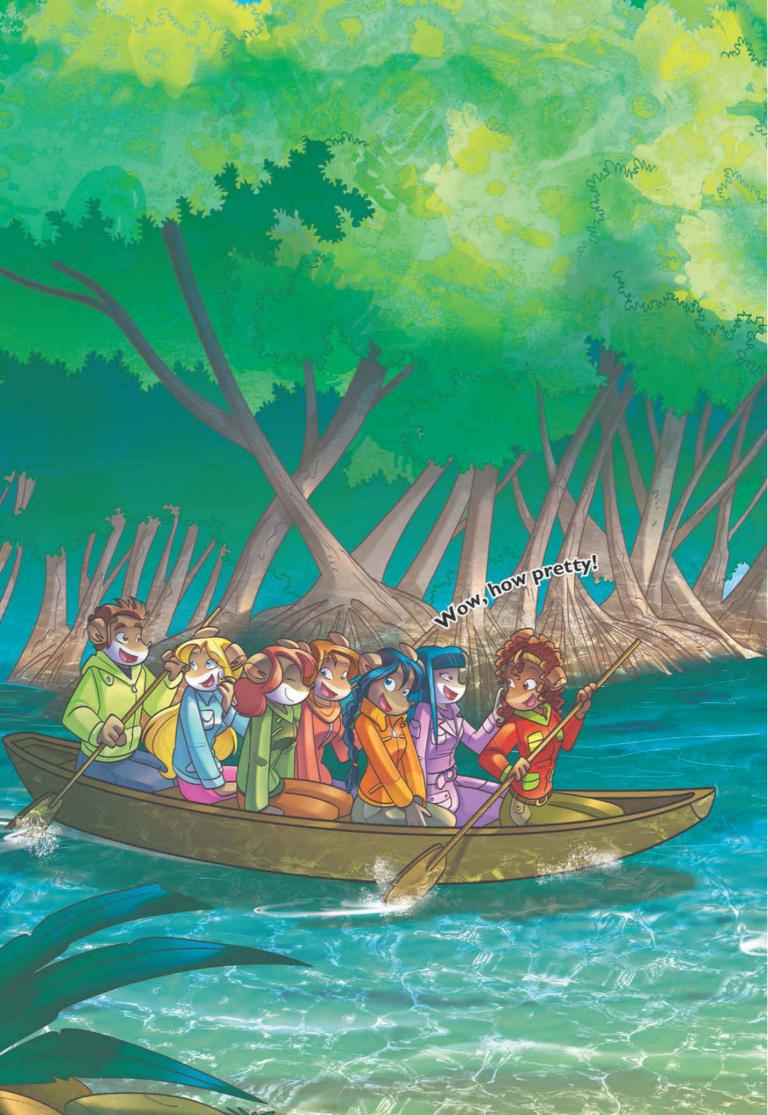
As they hiked back to camp, everyone was in a **good mood**. They nattered happily about the sights they'd seen.

"Everything's back



Mangroves are tropical plants that grow along the coast, often at the mouths of rivers. Many have roots that grow in the water, becoming visible only at low tide.

to normal now, thank goodmouse," observed Emma as she and Paulina approached the **campsite**. "Maybe tonight we can play **games** around the campfire."



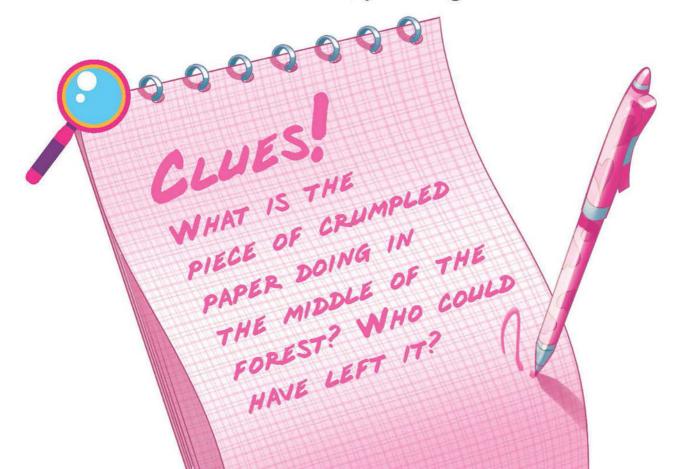




Paulina was about to reply when something caught her attention. "What's this **SCrap** here?" she asked, reaching for a piece of paper outside the **supply tent**.

As she drew closer, she realized the campground was a huge mess. The supply tent had been totally trashed! There were smashed food packages, cans tossed onto the ground, and SHARDS of broken dishes everywhere.

"Oh no! Mouselets, you've got to come see

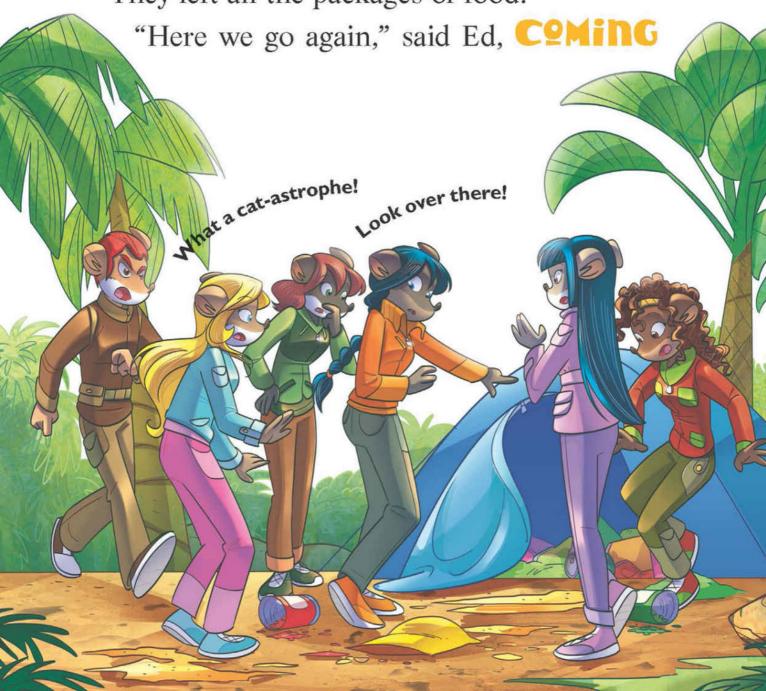




this!" she said, stuffing the scrap of paper into her **POCKET**.

"Do you think ANIMALS got into the tent somehow?" Colette asked.

Nicky shook her snout. "I don't think so . . . They left all the packages of food."





UP from behind the mouselets.

"What do you mean?" Pamela asked.

"It was our turn to organize the supplies. And this **cat-astrophe** will make us look bad!" Lisa replied, joining them.

"Are you **suggesting** we made this mess just to show you up?" Violet asked in disbelief.

Lisa nodded. "First the **BACKPACK**, now the supplies. You rodents are totally cutthroat! You'll do anything to win!"

"Well maybe it was you mice who sabotaged our tent!" Michael cried.

As the paw-pointing continued, the THEA SISTERS exchanged a look of ismay. Someone wanted to turn the ADVENTURE CAMP teams against each other . . . and it was WORKING!



LISA'S SECRET

"This competition isn't going at all like I thought it would . . ." Colette sighed.

"I've had it up to my whiskers with those twins," said Nicky, shaking her snout.

"1 know," Paulina said, stacking the damaged cans. "Lisa and Ed have great outdoors skills, but it's obvious they've NEVER worked in a team. And that's totally key on an adventure like this!"

You see, the **GREEN Mice** had always taught its members that it was important to treat others kindly. It made for **happier** days in the field, and it also helped build **trust** in dangerous situations!

After accusing the Green Mice team of sabotage, Ed and Lisa had scurried away,



leaving the Green Mice to Cean
Up the mess.

"Look, Lisa must have lost her **Bandanna** when she stomped off," said Colette, picking it up.

"Here, give it to me," said Paulina, taking it. "I'll go leave it next to her backpack."

Paulina headed over to Ed and Lisa's tent. She tied the bandanna to one of the BUCKIES on Lisa's pack.

But when PAULINA turned to go, she caught her www on a backpack strap. She stumbled, grabbing onto a TREE to stop herself from falling.

She was okay, but she'd accidentally dragged Lisa's backpack along with her. It opened, and all its contents spilled out.

"What's this?" cried Paulina, picking up



the **video comero** Lisa had found in the forest.

Paulina shook her snout. Everyone knew there were no **technological** devices allowed in Adventure Camp! At first, she was upset, but then a thought struck her. Maybe this rule-breaking could prove useful! "If Lisa took footage of the camp, then





there could be some clues that'll help us figure out who's responsible for all the sabotage," Paulina murmured.

She sat down next to a fallen tree and started to look at what Lisa had **FILMED**. Seeing those strange colors **confused** her at first, but then she remembered she'd seen images like this before.

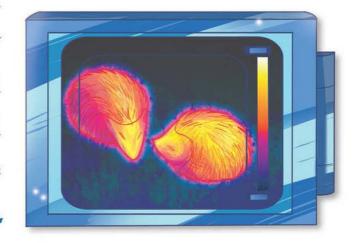
Paulina scratched her snout. "OF COURSE!" she cried suddenly. "There were images like this in *Creatures of the Night*!"





Creatures of the Night was the latest FILM by James Mouseron, the Thea Sisters' favorite documentary filmmaker.

Nicky and Paulina had gone to **SEE** it a few months earlier, and they'd been impressed by scenes showing the life of **NOCTURNAL** forest animals.



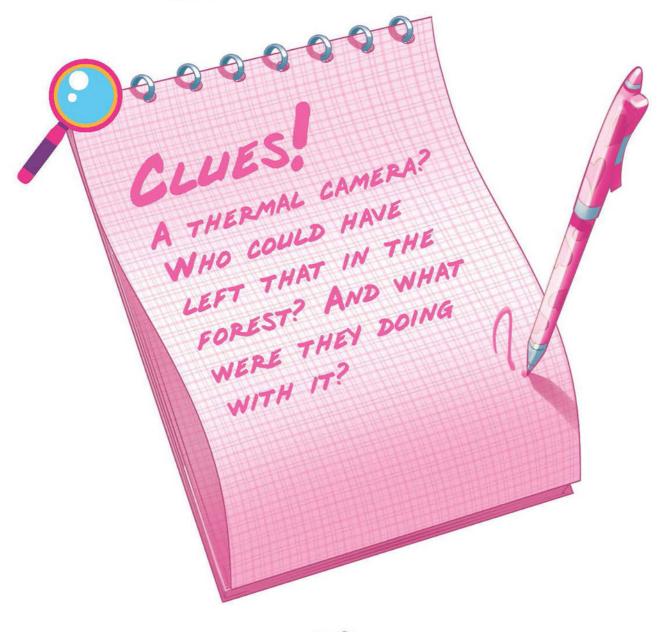
To take this footage, Mouseron had used a **thermal camera** — that is, a special camera that showed images in the dark created by the HEAT from animals' bodies. The result was very similar to the video on Lisa's device!

"But why was Lisa using a thermal camera?" Paulina wondered.

It was time to share her strange discovery



with her friends. But when she scrambled to her paws, Paulina realized that she had company. Lisa was right behind her, and fulging by the expression on her snout, she wasn't happy.



An impossible Argument

"What are you doing?!" Lisa thundered. She was more furious than a fly stuck in fondue.

Paulina blushed. "I It'c Aare you!

Paulina blushed. "I... It's not what it looks like! I can explain!"

"How dare you go through my things?" demanded Lisa.

The other rodents heard Lisa's angry Squeak and

realized something was going on.

"Um, everything okay?" asked Pam.

Lisa silenced her with a LOOK. "No, everything is NOT okay. Your little friend here opened my backpack and went



through my things!"

"Lisa, please, listen to me," pleaded Paulina, mortified. "I didn't mean to snoop, I swear it on a stack of cheese slices! I was just —"

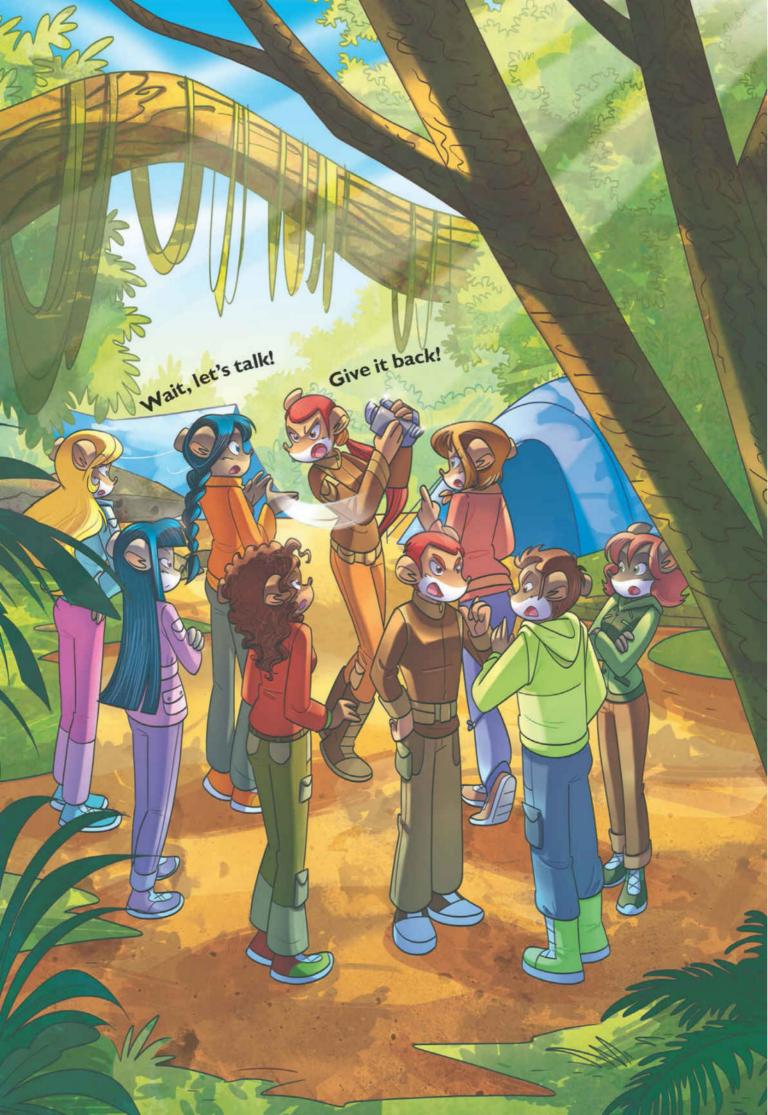
"You were just getting ready for another trick, right?" Ed **interrupted** her.

That rubbed Emma's fur the wrong way. "Not that old song again. How many times do we have to tell you that we didn't do anything!"

"The facts squeak for themselves," Ed replied scornfully.

"You've been afraid of us since day one, and you'll stoop lower than slugs to beat us!" Lisa added. She **SNatCHED** back the thermal camera. "Give me that camera! I'm the one who found it!"

Those words shook Paulina. Lisa had said "camera," not "thermal camera," so she





didn't know what it really was! And then she said she'd found it . . .

"Wait a minute, Lisa," Paulina cried. "What do you know about that device? And where did you find it?"

But Lisa was too angry to listen. "From this moment on I'm not saying a single word to you. And the same goes for my team!"

With that, she **STORMED OFF**. Ed and the rest of the team trailed after her.

"I wasn't snooping in her things," Paulina said, her squeak shaking. "You believe me, right?"

"We **know** you wouldn't do that! Now tell us everything, and we'll figure out what to do together."



SURPRISE CLUE!

Paulina told her friends what had happened: After tying Lisa's **Bandanna** to her backpack, she'd tripped and accidentally dumped out all the pack's **Contents**.

"And that's when you found the video camera?" Colette asked.

"Actually, it's net a video camera! I tried to explain, but Lisa didn't let me squeak. I SAW some of the footage. It's a thermal camera," Paulina revealed.

"A thermal camera?" asked Emma, surprised. "Like the ones used to identify people and animals in the DARK?"

Pamela stroked her whiskers thoughtfully. "Why would Lisa have a thermal camera?"

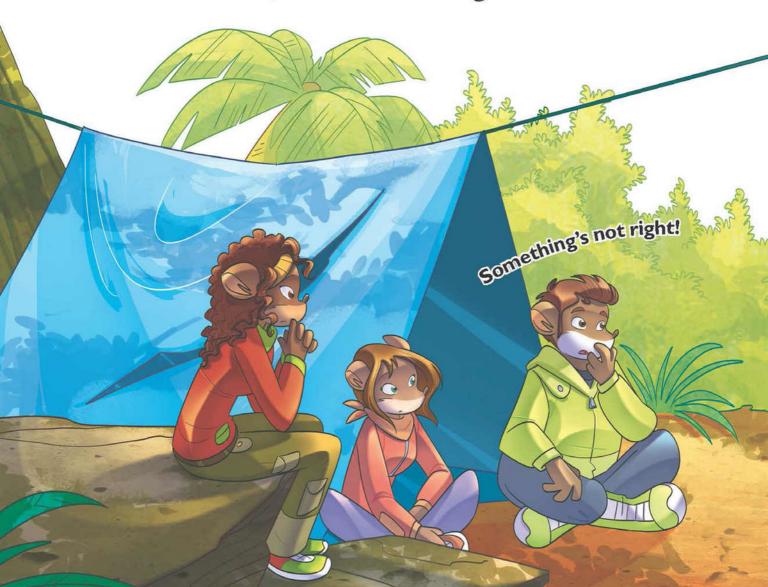
"I don't think it was hers," Paulina



explained. "Her story had more holes than a slice of Swiss! You heard her: First she called it a 'Video comero,' and then she said that she found it in the forest."

"How could she have **found** it in the forest?" Violet asked.

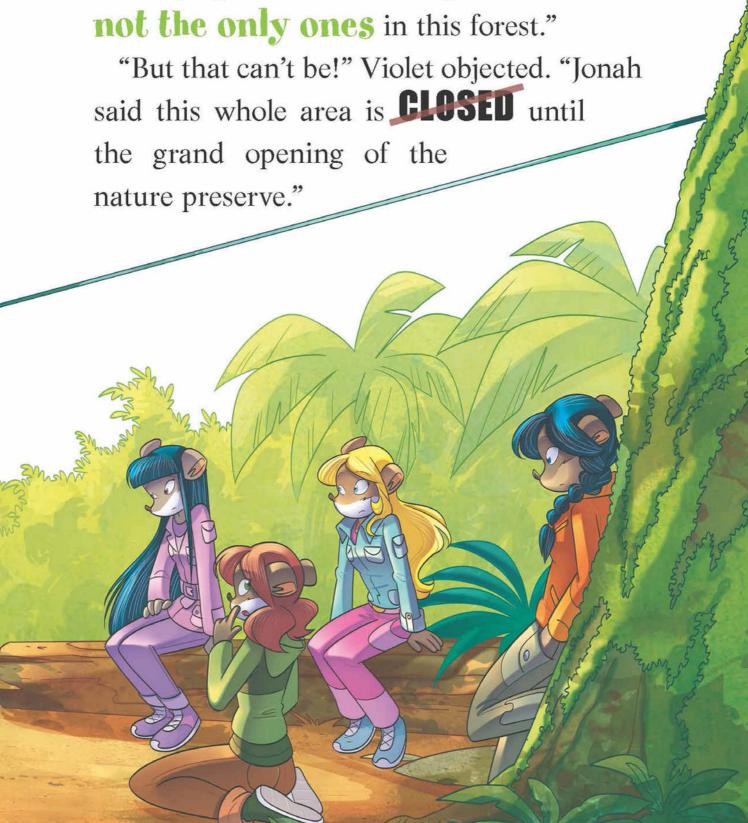
Paulina shook her snout. "I don't know . . ."
"Mouselets, this whole thing smells fishier

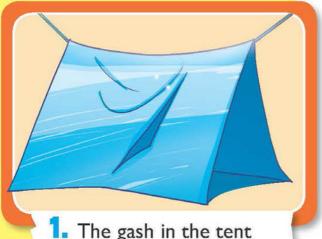




than day-old tuna," Michael DeclareD.

Nicky agreed. "I'm starting to think we're





1. The gash in the tent was too clean to have been an accident.



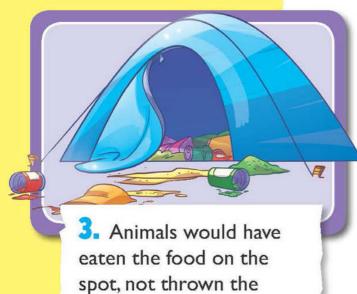
2. Why would an animal carry off an entire backpack?

"That's true, but I don't think it's tourists we're dealing with," Nicky said.

"Good point, Nicky,"
Emma agreed. "No
tourist would bring
a thermal camera to
record their Memories."

"And the accidents at camp definitely weren't caused by ANIMALS,"
Colette put in.

PAMELA seemed convinced. "No. But maybe someone wanted us to believe it was animals to SCARE us away . . ."



packages around!



"That's possible, but who? And why?" asked Colette, twisting her tail with worry.

"I don't know," Paulina whispered, digging her paws into her pockets. A moment later, she pulled out a crumpled piece of

"What's that?" asked Violet.

"Just a scrap of paper, I think Paulina replied, opening up the paper to SEE what was on it. "I found it next to the messed-up supplies, and I guess I put it in my pocket."

Her squeak trailed off as she

"Everything okay, Paulina?"

examined the scrap.





asked Colette, watching her friend CURIOUSLY.

A wide smile spread across Paulina's snout, but her eyes didn't leave the paper. "More than okay. I think our mysterious visitors left us a clue!"





The mice gathered around Paulina and examined the compled paper. ----

"What is it, a receipt?" Colette asked, looking at the strange **NUMBEPS**.

Paulina shook her snout. "No . . . see that little circle next to those numbers? It **indicates** the degrees of an angle. So these aren't just numbers, but . . ."

"Geographical coordinates!"

Nicky exclaimed.

"Huh?" asked Colette.

"Geographical coordinates are pairs of numbers that indicate a



Precise Location," Violet explained.

The Green Mice pondered this unexpected clue. Had the sneaky saboteurs dropped this paper?

"So how do we **find** the place marked on this paper?" Violet asked.

"If only I had my MousePhone," Paulina **grumbled**. "I have a GPS app that would be perfect. You just type in the coordinates,

Any point in the world can be located using its geographical coordinates of LONGITUDE and LATITUDE.

and it instantly shows you the LOCATION on a map. Plus the best Poute to reach that spot!"

"WELL, actually, you don't need



an app for that," Michael said. "During my first year in the **GREEN MICE**, I took a class in cartography, and I learned how to find **LOCATIONS** using geographical

coordinates. I have everything

I need — it'll just take a few minutes."

Michael worked on the map with a compass and protractor. A few minutes later, he put down his instruments. "The

location indicated on the paper isn't far from here!" he announced, Political to a spot on the map.

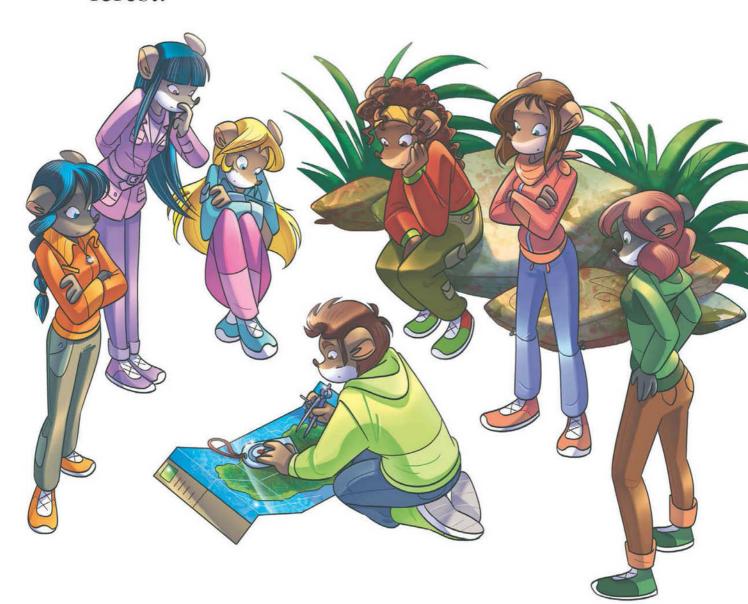
The mouselets were excited. They were sure they'd find answers to their questions in that spot.

"Let's Go check it out right away," Paulina



said. "Someone keeps sabotaging our camp, and if the Suspects are really out there in the forest, we've got to stop them before they put ADVENTURE CAMP in any further danger!"

So the Green Mice team headed into the forest.





"Hey, aren't we **CLOSE** to where we met the mama lemur and her baby?" asked Colette a few minutes later.

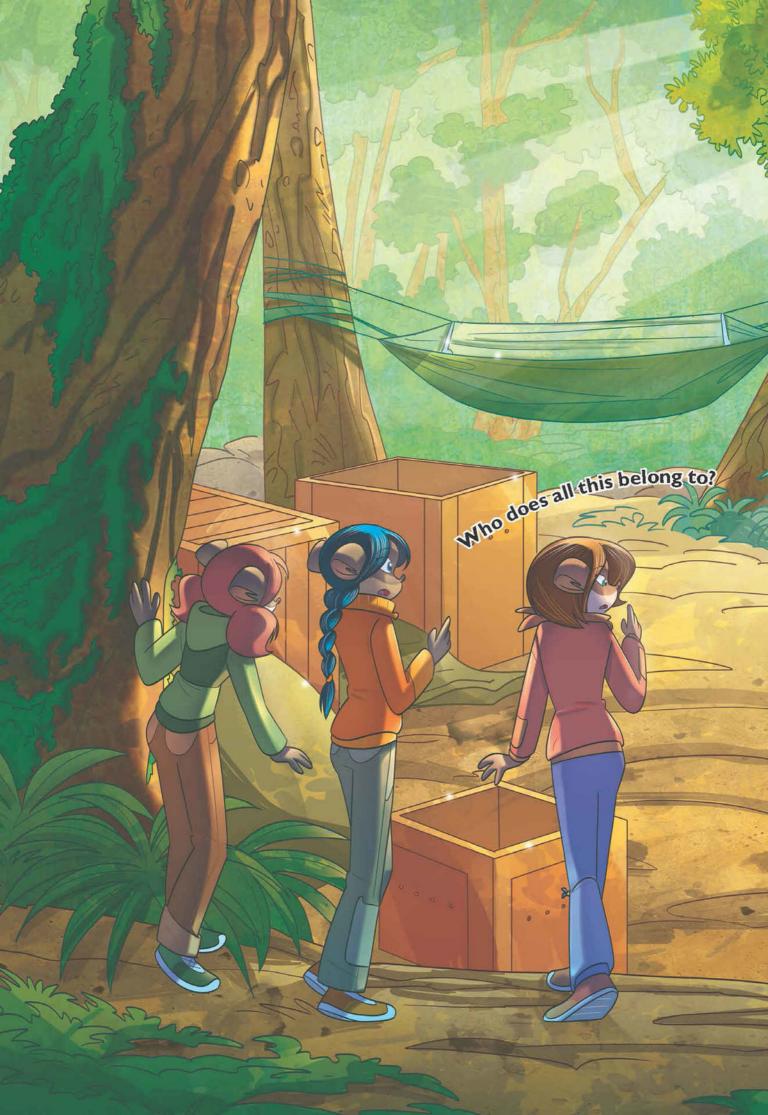
"You're right," Paulina said. "We came across them just past that waterfall. This also explains the broken BRANCHES we noticed — they must have been the work of the mysterious intruders!"

"That means we're definitely following the right strand of string cheese," Pam said.

"Here we are!" Michael said, hurrying ahead. He stopped between two tall **TREES**. "The **coordinates** are leading us to the **SPOH** just between these . . ."

Michael trailed off. Once they reached him, the THEA SISTERS and Emma were struck squeakless, too.

Before them lay a full **campsite** crowded with wooden creaters!







"I'd say it's official: We're not a one in this forest," said Pamela, stepping into the clearing.

The THEA SISTERS and their friends explored the camp. Judging by the hammocks TIED to the trees, two rodents were staying there . . . two rodents who were very different from the participants in the ADVENTURE CAMP.

"I wonder if Jonah knows there are other campers in this forest," Colette said.

"I'm afraid that these rodents aren't just **Campers**," said Michael, dumping out the contents of a bag he'd found under a **TREE**.



"Hey, those are thermal cameras!" Pam exclaimed.

"And not just that," said Emma, emptying another bag. "Flashlights and sticks with loops on the ends!"

"And over here, there are NETS and





TRAPS!" Nicky added, checking the contents of a large crate.

Violet **STARED** at the supplies, confused. "What is all this stuff for?"

Paulina found the **COURAGE** to say what all the Green Mice had guessed by now.

"They're for capturing wild

ANIMALS!"

"So we're dealing with animal traffickers?!" asked Colette, alarmed.

Paulina nodded. "I read an article about it in the

Green Mice newsletter a while back. Animal trafficking is a big problem in Madagascar— and in many other protected places in the world, too."

"Rodents take these **Unique** animals from their natural habitats to **SELL** them to



the highest bidder," Nicky added.

"That explains the thermal camera. They used it to identify and locate **nocturnal** animals!" said Pamela.

"And the FLASHLIGHTS and sticks with loops are for flushing out and capturing snakes!" added Paulina.

"After the traffickers CAPTURE the animals, they lock them up in these crates, ready to be shipped off . . ." Michael concluded, gesturing around the clearing.

The Thea Sisters and their friends soon realized that one of the crates was **CLOSED**.

They approached it cautiously. Pam grabbed a **SCrewdriver** and used it to lift the lid and pry out the nails sealing it.

Inside were geckos and chameleons!

FRIGHTENED by the sudden sunlight, the creatures stayed motionless for a moment.



Then they started to **SCAMPET** up and out of the crate. Soon they'd disappeared into the forest.

"We can't waste any time," said Nicky.

"We need to ALERT

Jonah and the other forest rangers right away!"

"SHHH! QUIET!" Emma whispered, looking around. "Someone's coming!"

Tails twitching, the mice turned toward the BUSHES they'd passed through earlier.

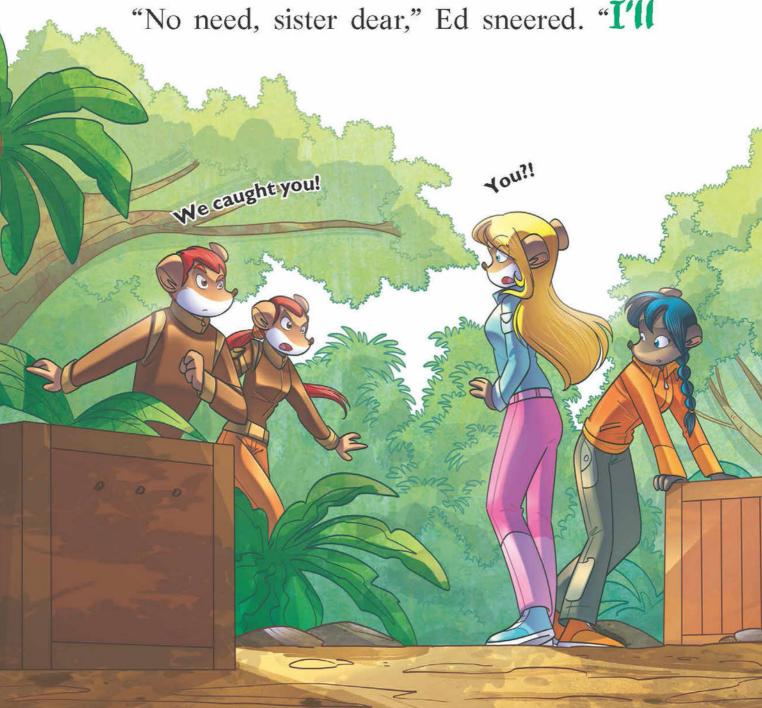
They heard **pawsteps** coming closer. Then the bushes moved, and when the fronds **parted** . . .

"Ed, Lisa, what are you doing here?!"



Colette cried in surprise.

Lisa shot her rivals a challenging look. "Simple — we **FOLLOWED** you here. And now we've caught you red-pawed! So, you want to tell us what's going on here?"

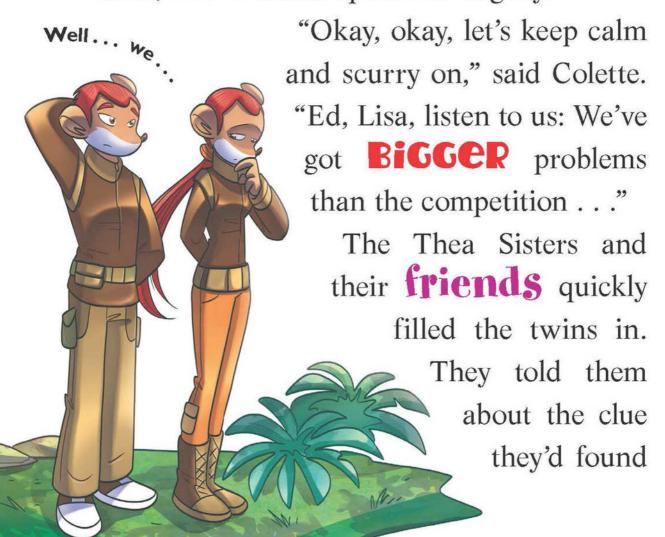




explain it all for you! This is their hideout, where they plan their sabotaging and hide what they steal. Look, my backpack is over there!"

"What a load of rotten cheese!" Emma cried.

"You've got the WRONG end of the cheese stick, Ed!" Paulina sputtered angrily.





next to the supply tent, about how it had led them here, and about the thermal cameras and their Suspicions.

"For a while now, we've had a feeling someone else was in the forest," Emma finished. "But we couldn't prove it until #oday!"

Ed and Lisa both had **strange** expressions on their snouts . . . almost as if they were embarrassed!

"What's up, Ed? Lisa?" Violet asked.

"Well, to tell you the truth . . ." Ed muttered, "a few days ago, we wanted two strange mice . . ."

"And that's when we found the video — um, thermal camera," added Lisa.

Michael's **Snout** dropped open like a hungry cat at feeding time. "But why didn't you tell anyone?"



"Because we wanted to keep the video camera," Ed **SNAPPED**. "And we didn't want you to take advantage of the situation to get ahead!"

"But we wouldn't have done that!"
Colette protested.

"Oh, sure," said Lisa. "You never miss a chance to show off! You would've found a way to take it from us and —"

"WELL, WELL," came a squeak from behind them. "Looks like we have visitors, Fred!"

Caught by **SURPRISE**, the young rodents whirled around. They found themselves snout-to-snout with the two strangers Ed and Lisa had run into a few days before.

It was the animal traffickers!





"Ah, yes, just a few unexpected guests, Stan," joked Fred. He took a few steps toward the Thea Sisters and their friends. An EVIL grin spread across his snout. "To what do we owe the honor of this visit?"

The young mice SHRANK BACK with fear, but at last Paulina found the courage to squeak.

"We know who you are!" she said. "We know that you're traffickers!"

"Fred, I told you we should STEER CLEAR of these meddling ratlets," Stan muttered, stroking his whiskers. "These snoops are more CONTONS than tomcats. They keep sticking their silly little snouts into

We have visitors!



Welcome!

our business!"

"I know, but I had to get my thermal camera back. And then it was such watching them

wrack their little brains when they found something fishy," Fred replied.

He started talking in a high-pitched squeak, in obvious mockery of the campers. "Who took my backpack?' 'Who sabotaged our "" "" "Who moved my cheese?"

Stan laughed and laughed.

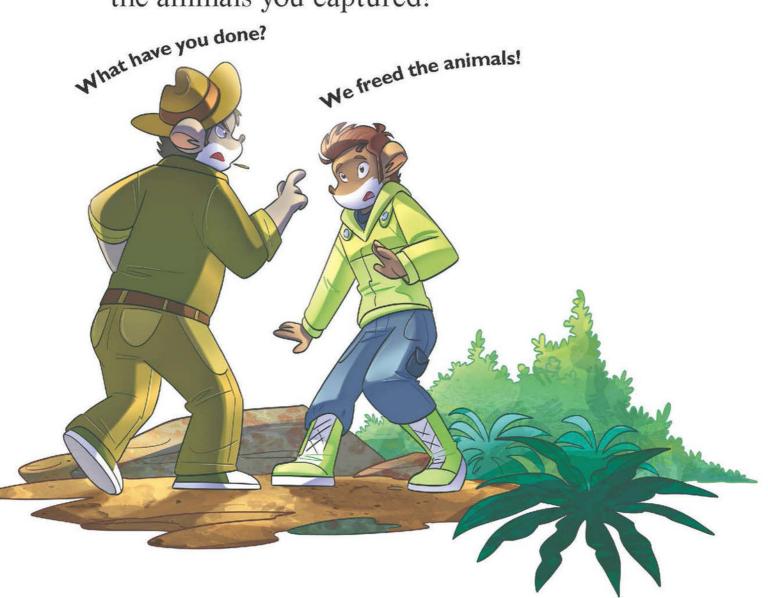
Nicky was boiling like a pot of forgotten fondue. "Do you realize the animals you're trapping are very rare species? Some of them only live in Madagascar. Taking them from their natural environment could mean condemning them to EXTINCTION!"



Fred and Stan didn't seem too interested in Nicky's opinions on the subject. They'd spotted the crate that had held the geckos and chameleans.

"Why is that QRATE open?" Fred barked.

"It's empty!" Michael shouted. "We **freed** the animals you captured!"





"Watch yourself, young rat!" Stan growled, approaching Michael THREATENINGLY.

"If we hurry, we can get the animals back!"

"Never!" Emma shouted. "We'll **report** you and have you arrested!"

"I don't think so," Stan sneered, taking some rope out of his bag. "Because you're not boll anywhere!"

In a flash, the pair had tied the young mice to two big **TREES**.

"First we'll recapture the animals, and then we'll deal with you," Fred promised. Then he with the into the forest with his partner.



ONE TINY ANT

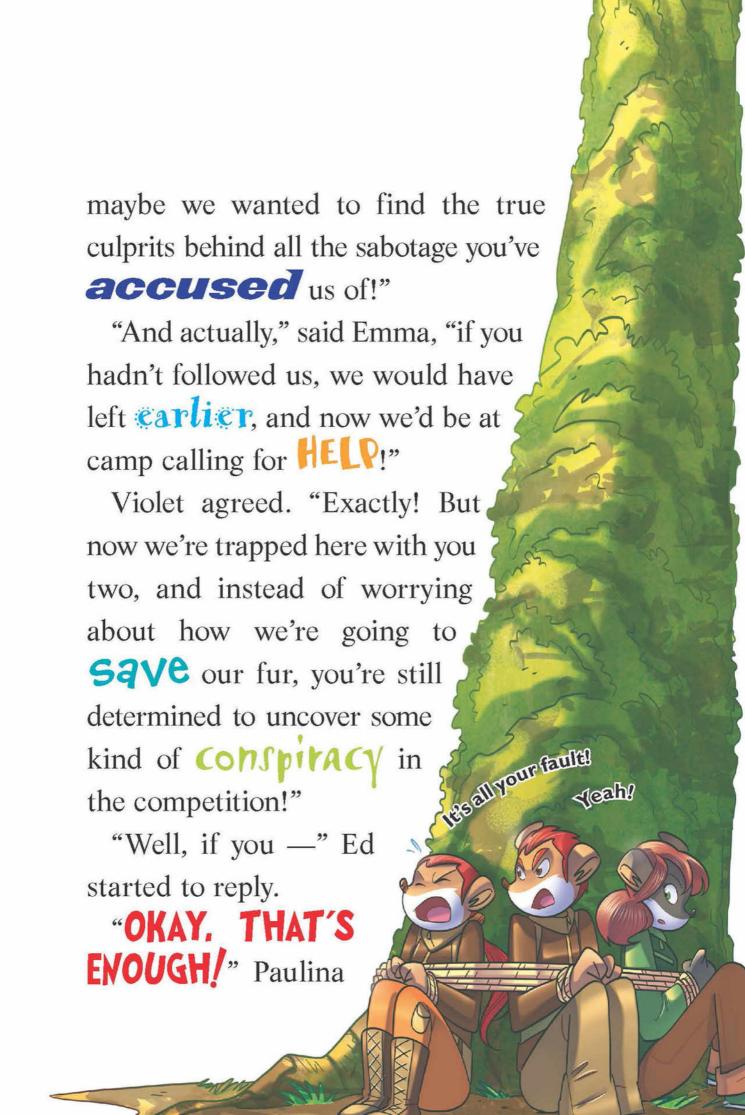
When they started investigating the mysterious events around the camp, the Thea Sisters never imagined they'd end up in a situation like this. They figured they'd be dealing with illegal campers, not animal troffickers!

The same went for Ed and Lisa: They had followed their rivals hoping only to catch them **red-pawed**. They were sure they'd seal their victory at Adventure Camp, but instead they were **TIED** to trees next to their rivals!

"This is all your fault!" Lisa burst out.

"Why did you come snooping around HERE, anyway?"

"Why?" Paulina asked, annoyed. "Well,







cried. "Everyone shut your snouts for a minute, and listen up. We've got to find a way to get out of these ropes before Fred and Stan get back."

"Good plan, Paulina," said Colette. "It'll be Dark soon, and then it'll be much harder for us."

"Maybe our **TEAMMATES** have already realized Lisa and I are missing. They could be looking for us," Ed guessed.

Lisa sightd. "Or maybe they're enjoying a little peace and quiet without us there to **boss** them around . . ."

"Don't beat yourself up," Colette consoled her. "There's always Jonah. He's probably looking for us."

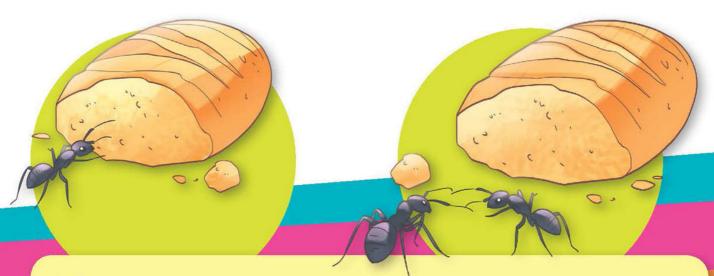
"Maybe, but we can't count on the others. We need to take care of **ourselves!**" said Michael, trying to wiggle out of the ropes.



But he quickly realized their bindings were too tight to budge. Michael LOOKED down, discouraged. "What am I saying? We'll never do this on our own!"

Silence fell over the CLEARING. Each rodent was lost in his or her own thoughts.

The mouselets and ratlets were gloomier than a groundhog who's just seen his shadow. Despair was getting the better of them . . . until something caught Nicky's eye.



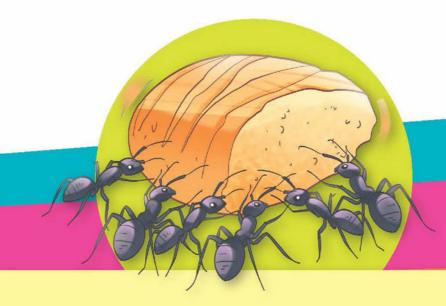
The piece of bread is too big for just one ant, but it won't give up! It just needs to remember ...



Not far from her paws, she noticed an **ant** trying to carry off a large piece of **BREAD**.

The traffickers must have dropped the bread on the ground, but it was too **Heavy** for the ant, who abandoned it and scurried off.

Nicky followed the creature with her eyes, convinced it was **going** to find a different piece of food. Instead she saw the ant communicate something to another ant



THERE'S STRENGTH IN NUMBERS!



with a **TQUCH** of its antennae. That ant did the same to another, and so on.

The little group of ants made their way back to the bread. **Together**, they easily carried it off toward their anthill.

Nicky **Smiled**. One ant couldn't do much, but a **group** of ants could do a lot when they worked together.

"You're wrong, Michael!" she said confidently. "We're not alone . . . we're together.

AND TOGETHER WE CAN DO IT!"



WORKING TOGETHER!

As she watched the ants work together, Nicky found in spiration. She was sure her idea would Solve their problem!

"There's no way any of us can get free if we each just try on our own," she explained. "But if we work all together, at the same time, maybe we can do it!"

Nicky's plan was very simple: On her count, the mice would try to LiFT their paws up high. That way, they might be able to scoot the rope tied at their elbows up to their shoulders.

"That's a great idea, Nicky," Colette cried.

"Once the rope is up to our shoulders and reaches our necks, we can wriggle free!"

Condition of the last

And so, the mice began to lift their paws up as one. It seemed impossible, but working together, little by little, they managed to free their bodies from the rope!

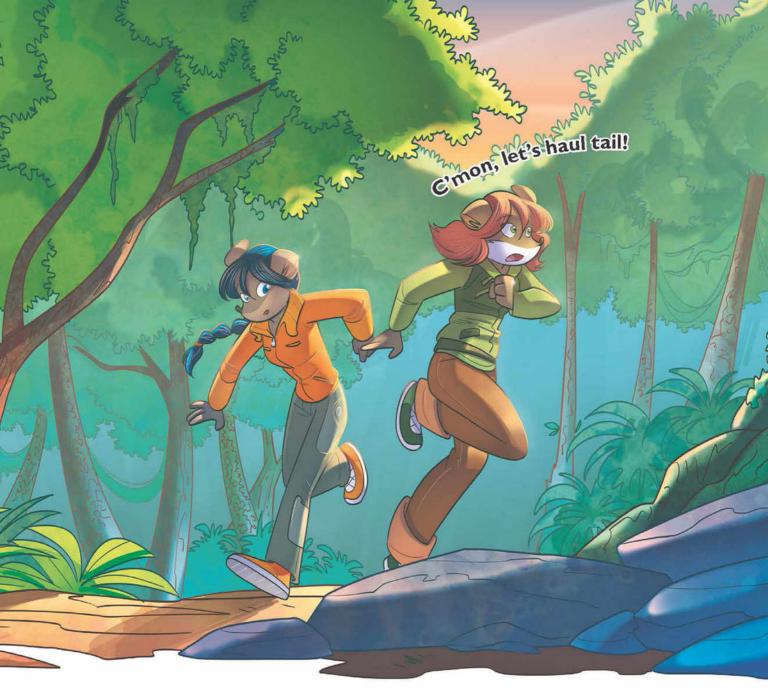
Once they were on their paws, untying the knots around their wrists was easy.

The minute they were free, the Thea Sisters and their fellow **ADVENTURE CAMPERS** scurried through the forest.

They camp just before nightfall.

"Thank goodmouse!" cried Jonah. "I've been worried sick about you. Where have you been?" He looked the young rodents over from paw to tail. Their fur was slick with sweat, and they were **Covered** with dirt.

"Sorry, Jonah. We shouldn't have gone off without telling you where we were headed," said Paulina. "But we made a **SERIOUS**



discovery, and we need your help!"

Jonah listened **carefully** to their story. His expression went from worry to shock to grim determination.

"I'm proud of you young mice. You were very **BRAVE**," he said when they'd finished. "But you've done enough. Now it's time to

call in reinforcements!"

With that, Jonah headed toward a wooden CRATE on the edge of the campsite. It had sat unopened since day one.





"So, uh, reinforcements are inside that **BUX**?" Pam asked.

Jonah smiled. "Kind of! Inside are signal flares we can use to call my forest ranger COLLEAGUES. I won't let the animals you freed fall into the paws of those traffickers!"





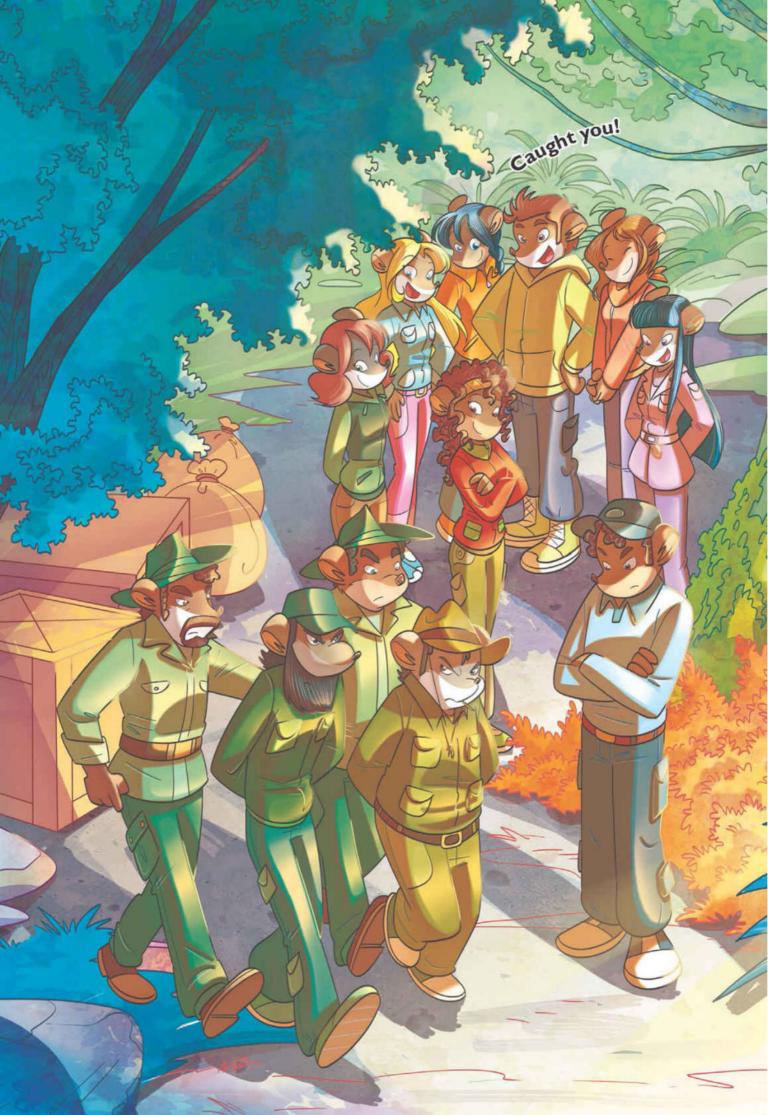
UNEXPECTED NEWS

Once the signal flares were lit, the THEA SISTERS and their friends waited anxiously for the forest rangers to arrive.

"Let's hope that those two sewer rats haven't **CaptureD** any more poor, defenseless animals," Nicky said fiercely.

Luckily, it took less than half an hour for Jonah's colleagues to reach the Adventure Camp site.

The young campers sprang to their and led the forest rangers through the forest. Now that they knew the route, it didn't take long to scurry over to the traffickers' camp. They surprised Fred and Stan as they were trying to standard their gear!





That **evening**, all the rodents got together around the campfire to celebrate the arrest of the two traffickers. All the bad feeling between the two teams was cheese under the wheel after everything they'd been through.





The young mice sang campfire songs, told stories, played games, and laughed and laughed.

When they woke up the next morning, though, the campers received some unexpected **ICWS**...

Right after breakfast, Jonah gathered everyone in the **Center** of the campsite.

"First of all, let me say how proud I am of all of you," he said. "Unfortunately, I just heard from the organizers of our ADVENTURE CAMP, and it seems we have a problem . . ."

"What's wrong?" asked Colette, worried.

"The discovery of the animal TRAFFICKERS has upset our plans," Jonah explained. "I'm afraid we have to END the competition before we can declare a winner."

"But that's not fair!" Lisa moaned. "We



worked so hard!"

Jonah sighed. "I know, and I'm sorry. But the **decision** has already been made."

The Thea Sisters and their friends were **silent** for a moment.

"But . . . can we **STAU HERE** anyway?" Nicky asked timidly.

"Of course!" Jonah assured her. "You can stay here as planned, right up till the GRAND OPENING of the nature preserve."

"Okay, then no more long snouts, mouselings!" Paulina said. "We're staying put. And now we can relax and enjoy visiting this fabumous: place place."



The Thea Sisters and their friends spent the next few days exploring the forest and beaches all around them. They were determined to enjoy every moment of their time in Madagascar.

On the last day of their trip, the mouselets **FOLLOWED** Jonah on a breathtaking hike across a long bridge suspended over a canyon. It was one of the most fabumouse experiences of their trip.

The day of the grand opening finally came. Many **Visitors** arrived, eager to tour the newly protected **AREA**. Mr. Leon, the president of the association that had organized Adventure Camp, was there, too.





"Before **Pening** the nature preserve, I must say one more thing," said Mr. Leon at the end of his **speech**. "Today we are celebrating this **marvemouse** place and the animals that live here. We owe our thanks

to a group of exceptional

young mice for helping

keep this place pristine:

the participants of

ADVENTURE CAMP!

Let's give them a round

of applause!"

"He's talking about us!" cried Violet, blushing **redder** than a cheese rind.

Mr. Leon motioned

for the Green

Mice and Ed





and Lisa to join him on the podium.

"These mice have completed their assignments with great courage. And now, thanks to them, the species that live in this area are safe," Mr. Leon continued. "I





am very proud to tell you that the competition's GRAND PRIZE will be awarded to BOTH TEAMS!"

The Thea Sisters and their friends jumped up and down like baby mouselings in a cheese shop. But their celebration was cut short when Lisa Squeaked up.

"Mr. Leon, my team and I thank you for this honor," she said. "But we think awarding the prize to both teams isn't right at all!"





The Thea Sisters and their friends **STARED** at Lisa. The mouselet had become a true friend to them over the last few days. Was she about to to them over the last few days. Was

Lisa simply smiled at them. Then she cleared her throat and continued.

"It's true that both teams were together when we alerted Jonah to the presence of animal traffickers. But it was all thanks to our RIVAL TEAM that those two poachers were exposed, and it's only thanks to them that we managed to escape! That's why my teammates and I have decided to turn down the prize. THERE'S ONLY ONE WINNING TEAM HERE, AND IT'S NOT OURS!"



The Thea Sisters were moved. They went to hug the mice who only a few days earlier had been their biffer rivals.

"We . . . we don't know what to say," Colette said.

"Thanks to you, the **GREEN MICE** will finally be able to afford the equipment they've

been dreaming of for

years!" said Emma.

Ed smiled. "You don't need to thank us. You earned it!

And as for us . . . well, we already have our PRIZE. Just being here in the rain forest, surrounded by this gorgeous nature





and such good friends — it's all the thanks we need!"

Once the awards ceremony was over, Colette, Nicky, Pam, Paulina, and Violet packed up their things. It was time to catch their TAXI-BROUSSE back to the airport.

But before they left this place full of lush nature and rare animals, the Thea Sisters stopped for a MOMENT to take in the amazing sights that had surrounded them for the past week.

"So long, Madagas Car, hope to see you again soon!" Colette said.

Just then, Nicky noticed something out of the corner of her

"Hey," she whispered, "don't everyone look at once, but someone in the tree to our left has come to say good-bye..."

When she saw the mama LEMUR and





her baby, Paulina instinctively put her paw in her pocket, looking for the **MOUSEPHONE** she'd just gotten back.

"Do you want to take a picture?" Violet asked.

"I thought about it for a second," Paulina smiled, removing her empty paw from her pocket. "But I changed my mind. No digital PHOTO could be as beautiful as the picture



The Thea Sisters laughed, and **Smiled** at the lemurs. They would never forget the experiences they'd had at **ADVENTURE CAMP!**



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Thea Stilton and the Missing Myth



Thea Stilton and the Madagascar Madness

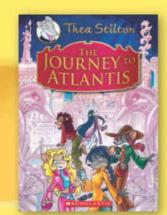


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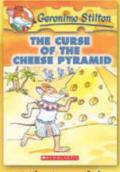
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#6 Paws Off, Cheddarface!



#7 Red Pizzas for a Blue Count



#8 Attack of the Bandit Cats



#9 A Fabumouse Vacation for Geronimo



#10 All Because of a Cup of Coffee



#11 It's Halloween, You 'Fraidy Mouse!



#12 Merry Christmas, Geronimo!



#13 The Phantom of the Subway



#14 The Temple of the Ruby of Fire



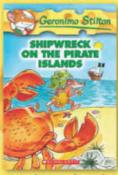
#15 The Mona Mousa Code



#16 A Cheese-Colored Camper



#17 Watch Your Whiskers, Stilton!



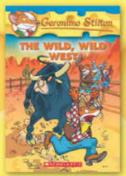
#18 Shipwreck on the Pirate Islands



#19 My Name Is Stilton, Geronimo Stilton



#20 Surf's Up, Geronimo!



#21 The Wild, Wild West



#22 The Secret
of Cacklefur Castle



A Christmas Tale



#23 Valentine's Day Disaster



#24 Field Trip to Niagara Falls



#25 The Search for Sunken Treasure



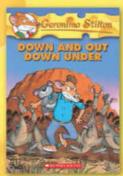
#26 The Mummy with No Name



#27 The Christmas Toy Factory



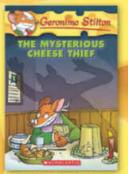
#28 Wedding Crasher



#29 Down and Out Down Under



#30 The Mouse Island Marathon



#31 The Mysterious Cheese Thief



Christmas Catastrophe



#32 Valley of the Giant Skeletons



#33 Geronimo and the Gold Medal Mystery



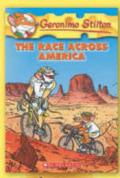
#34 Geronimo Stilton, Secret Agent



#35 A Very Merry Christmas



#36 Geronimo's Valentine



#37 The Race Across America



#38 A Fabumouse School Adventure



#39 Singing Sensation



#40 The Karate Mouse



#41 Mighty Mount Kilimanjaro



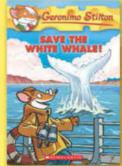
#42 The Peculiar Pumpkin Thief



#43 I'm Not a Supermouse!



#44 The Giant Diamond Robbery



#45 Save the White Whale!



#46 The Haunted Castle



#47 Run for the Hills, Geronimo!



#48 The Mystery in Venice



#49 The Way of the Samurai



#50 This Hotel Is Haunted!



#51 The Enormouse Pearl Heist



#52 Mouse in Space!



#53 Rumble in the Jungle



#54 Get into Gear, Stilton!



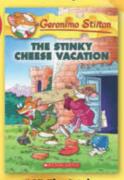
#55 The Golden Statue Plot



#56 Flight of the Red Bandit



The Hunt for the Golden Book



#57 The Stinky Cheese Vacation



#58 The Super Chef Contest



#59 Welcome to Moldy Manor



The Hunt for the Curious Cheese



#60 The Treasure of Easter Island



#61 Mouse House Hunter



#62 Mouse Overboard!



The Hunt for the Secret Papyrus



#63 The Cheese Experiment



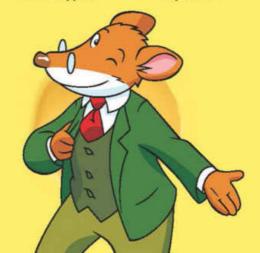
#64 Magical Mission



#65 Bollywood Burglary

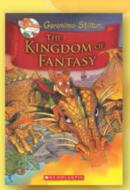


The Hunt for the Hundredth Key





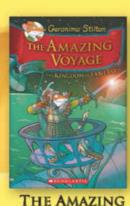
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THE FOURTH ADVENTURE

IN THE KINGDOM

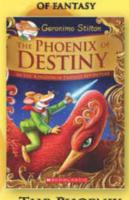




THE SEARCH FOR TREASURE: THE SIXTH ADVENTURE IN THE KINGDOM OF FANTASY



THE ENCHANTED
CHARMS:
THE SEVENTH ADVENTURE
IN THE KINGDOM
OF FANTASY



THE PHOENIX
OF DESTINY:
AN EPIC KINGDOM OF
FANTASY ADVENTURE



MAGIC: THE EIGHTH ADVENTURE IN THE KINGDOM

OF FANTASY



THE WIZARD'S
WAND:
THE NINTH ADVENTURE
IN THE KINGDOM
OF FANTASY



THE JOURNEY
THROUGH TIME



BACK IN TIME: THE SECOND JOURNEY THROUGH TIME



THE RACE
AGAINST TIME:
THE THIRD JOURNEY
THROUGH TIME



LOST IN TIME: THE FOURTH JOURNEY THROUGH TIME



CREEPELLA VON CACKLEFUR

I, Geronimo Stilton, have a lot of mouse friends, but none as spooky as my friend CREEPELLA VON CACKLEFUR! She is an enchanting and MYSTERIOUS mouse with a pet bat named Bitewing. YIKES! I'm a real 'fraidy mouse, but even I think CREEPELLA and her family are ANNEULLY fascinating. I can't wait for you to read all about CREEPELLA in these fa-mouse-ly funny and spectacularly spooky tales!





#1 The Thirteen Ghosts



#2 Meet Me in Horrorwood



#3 Ghost Pirate Treasure



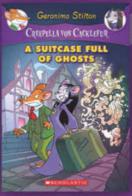
#4 Return of the Vampire



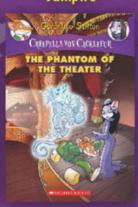
#5 Fright Night



#6 Ride for Your Life!

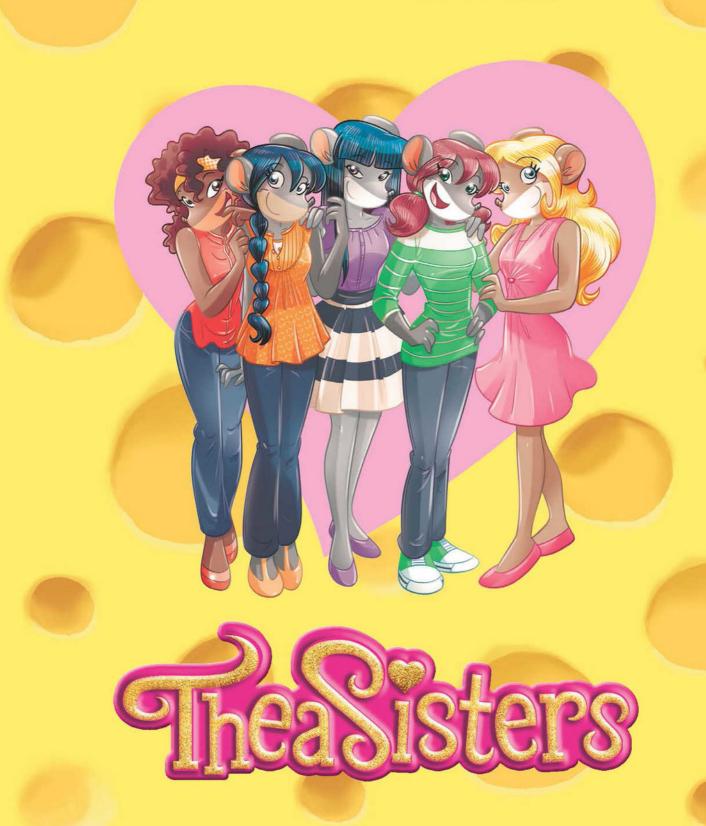


#7 A Suitcase Full of Ghosts



#8 The Phantom of the Theater

THANKS FOR READING, AND GOOD-BYE UNTIL OUR NEXT ADVENTURE!



It's an environmental emergency!

The Thea Sisters are off to Madagascar for Adventure Camp, a wilderness survival competition! The friends love exploring and learning about the many plants and animals that live there. But then they discover that they're not alone in the nature preserve — and endangered animals are under threat! Can the mouselets help before it's too late?



NICKY is always in a good mood when she's outdoors.

COLETTE is energetic and full of great ideas.



PAMELA is a peacemaker who can't stand arguments.

Paulina loves traveling and helping other rodents.



VIOLET is detail-oriented and always open to new things.





₩SCHOLASTIC



APPEALS TO

2ND-4TH GRADERS



READING LEVEL

GRADE 4

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